

# TAIPEI

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STORIES FROM THE CAPITAL

## LOOKING BACK, STRIVING FORWARD

**COVER STORY** The City of Taipei: A Museum Without Walls / **EXPERIENCE** Taipei Through the Ages: The Discovery Center of Taipei / **ART AND CULTURE** A Guide to Modern and Contemporary Art Spaces in Taipei / **PEOPLE** Here's the Tea on Taipei's Sickening Drag Scene / **FOOD AND DRINKS** Traditional Markets: Extraordinary Witnesses of Ordinary Times

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# EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

## WHEN PAST MEETS PRESENT

Taipei is a city where old meets new, and where the traditions of the past mingle with the evolving customs and attitudes of the present. It is a place where time-honored culture and history is passed on from generation to generation, and though the proverbial seasons may change, just as summer turns to present autumn, that immovable bedrock of identity remains.

To get a sense of just where Taipei derives its unique identity and to experience the history and culture from which it stems, let us take you on a journey through the five distinctive eco museums of this modern metropolis — enclaves charmingly preserved in the ways of old amidst the advent of progress and change. From Beitou in the north, through Dadaocheng and Bangka, on to North and South Towns, our cover story this season unveils these Taipei treasures that heave with stories of yesteryear.

In keeping with the theme of discovering the past, continue on to our feature on the Discovery Center of Taipei, or our “deep dig” on record stores in Taipei. If those are not enough to satiate your craving for Taipei’s past, delving into three more historical neighborhoods will be more than enough to fill your future itinerary.

This autumn, art lovers can revel in our guide to modern and contemporary art spaces, while architecture buffs can experience the city’s rapid evolution in our exploration of Taipei’s building evolution. Of course, though these pieces explore the changing face of Taipei, it wouldn’t be the autumn issue without a piece on the Moon Festival.

It is precisely this juxtaposition of holding onto history while allowing the stimulation of new, fresh culture that makes Taipei one-of-a-kind, and the city is filled with special people who spur those new aspects of urban life on. *TAIPEI* takes you to meet some of those culture curators at Blue Note, ground zero for Taipei jazz. Meanwhile, we also take a peek behind the curtain of Taipei’s “sickening” drag scene (and that’s a compliment, believe me).

Finally, we take a gluttonous trip through Taipei’s Street Food 2.0 scene, where past night markets and street stall staples are given a culinary makeover. We also take a look inside Taipei’s traditional markets, which for decades have served not only as the centers that feed the city, but also as places that facilitated social networking well before the days of Facebook and Instagram.

Past, present — why not appreciate both? In Taipei, you can.



# CONTENTS

2020 AUTUMN VOL.21

## COVER STORY

- 04 The City of Taipei: A Museum Without Walls

## EXPERIENCE

- 16 Taipei Through the Ages: The Discovery Center of Taipei
- 20 Analog Sounds in Digital Times:  
Dedicated Record Stores in the Streaming Era
- 24 Frozen in Time:  
Three Historic Neighborhoods to Visit in Taipei

## ART & CULTURE

- 28 A Guide to Modern and Contemporary Art Spaces in Taipei
- 32 A Time for Family:  
Your Guide to the Moon Festival in Taiwan
- 36 Celebrating Taipei City's History & Evolution in Architecture

## PEOPLE

- 42 Blue Note Taipei: Hallowed Ground for Lovers of Jazz
- 48 Here's the Tea on Taipei's Sickening Drag Scene

## FOOD & DRINKS

- 54 Taipei Street Food Scene 2.0  
Five Places that Reinterpret Old Taiwanese Tastes with  
New Creativity
- 58 Traditional Markets:  
Extraordinary Witnesses of Ordinary Times







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**Editor in Chief** Pei-chun Hsieh  
**Deputy Editor in Chief** Chia-ying Tzou  
**Editor** Yennan Lin  
**Integrated Marketing** Cathy Chen, Mika Lee, Lin Pei Yu  
**Translators** Joe Henley, Jie-ru Wu,  
**Cover Photo** Yenyi Lin  
**Cover Design** Broo Branding Consultant

## Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

**Add:** 4F, 1, City Hall Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

**Tel:** 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City);  
ext. 2029, 7564

**Fax:** (02) 2720-5909

**Email:** taipei\_quarterly@mail.taipei.gov.tw

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01

# THE CITY OF TAIPEI: A MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

*Five Living Museums — Old and New, Modern and Traditional, Coexisting in Harmony*

Taipei is a vibrant metropolis where the first-time visitor immediately notices how old and new, traditional and modern, live in seamless harmony. The people of this city — and island — are renowned for their openness to the world. Yet they also take great pride in their past, and over the past few decades have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving and celebrating the cultural inheritance bestowed on them by their forefathers. As you move around the city, again and again you come across scenes of carefully renovated heritage buildings standing proudly amidst gleaming modern architectural works that tower above them.

There have been numerous heritage architecture preservation initiatives. As such, the Taipei City government has launched the “Taipei Eco Museum” (台北無圍牆博物館) campaign, treating the city as a whole as a living museum, tying together its unique treasure trove of humanities, the lives of ordinary people, physical resources, and history into a tourism-focused whole for visitors to explore.

**01** As a living museum with many diverse faces, people can still see old street scenes in Taipei coexisting with the modern city.

**02** Beitou is famous for its hot springs and many more popular natural sites such as Thermal Valley (地熱谷). (Photo/Toppy Baker)



Five major city zones of historical importance, each a living museum without walls that possesses a unique look, style, and story, have been chosen for integrated planning and marketing, collectively creating a new cultural-exploration map of the city that tourists can explore individually or in its entirety, depending on time and interest. Running north to south, they are: Beitou (北投溫泉), Dadaocheng (大稻埕), Bangka (萬華艋舺), North Town (城北廊帶), and South Town (城南台大). The campaign is a celebration of the cultural diversity and harmonious coexistence of the old and new, traditional and modern in each area.

Your thirst for adventure has no doubt been excited, so to whet your palate here is a quick tour of each of these neighborhoods.

## BEITOU

### Monuments & Architecture (with Hot Springs!)

The Beitou hot-spring resort area was the first such leisure and recreation area developed in Taiwan. Created by the Japanese starting in the late 1890s, it

was once reached from central Taipei by a special branch railway. Today, this area is a dense, rich mix of old and stylish new architecture, including a small forest of heritage and modern-style hot-spring inns and hotels.

The area's core is a long, narrow valley at the base of the Yangmingshan (陽明山) massif filled up at its bottom with Beitou Park (北投公園). Immediately before the valley's mouth is Taipei Metro's striking Xinbeitou Station (捷運新北投站). The metro station and branch line were specifically built to help in the revival of the treasured Beitou hot spring culture. The station has an imperial-yellow Chinese palace-style roof, and is fronted by a classical-style archway that looks toward the hot spring park.

Beside the station, in small Qixing Park (七星公園), is a rebuilt version of the original Japanese-style wood-built station — Xinbeitou Historic Station (新北投車站). The station was built in 1916, with an expansion undertaken in 1937. The charming architectural restoration was created utilizing over 70% of the structure's original materials, with the 1937 blueprints used as a reference. It has the same dimensions and



appearance, with its most notable features being its wood exterior, copper roof tiles, ornately carved eaves, and ox-eye windows. The structure now houses a gallery with exhibits on Beitou history and a souvenir shop with Beitou-themed products.

Inside Beitou Park, the first building encountered is the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch (台北市立圖書館北投分館), Taiwan's first green library. Resembling a giant ark resting amidst a mini-forest, the award-winning structure, built mainly of wood and steel, boasts an impressive array of eco-friendly features. Rooftop solar panels generate electricity, rooftop greenery helps keep the interior cool, and rainwater collected by the sloping roof's drainage system is gathered for interior use (e.g. for watering plants and flushing toilets). Surrounding tree cover helps prevent direct sunlight from entering through the French windows, and also allows for comfortable outdoor reading on the building's balconies. The overall design concept is to provide visitors with a soothing, spirit-calming "forest bath."

Just uphill from the library is the Beitou Hot Spring Museum (北投溫泉博物館). This lovely building of red brick, stained-wood planks, and white stucco, featuring an eclectic hybrid Victorian/Japanese architectural mix, was originally the Beitou Public Bathhouse, opened by the Japanese in 1913. As Taiwan's first public bath and then East Asia's largest hot spring public bath, its design was based on



03



04

**03-04** The Japanese-style Xinbeitou Historic Station is now a repurposed tourist attraction and exhibition space.

**05** Located in the center of a lush, green park, Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch is a wooden building that looks like a huge tree house.



05





06

Japan's famed Mount Izu Hot Spring Bathhouse. Inside, a Romanesque pool and columns have been restored, as has the original large, breezy Japanese-style tatami resting room, and there are many intriguing artifacts and info displays on Beitou history.

Tian Gou An (天狗庵) was the very first hot spring inn built in Taiwan, opened in 1896 by an Osaka businessman. This was the fountainhead of Beitou's flowering as a hot spring resort area.

Besides, there was a hospital built ten minutes away from Tian Gou An during the Japanese colonial era due to the health benefits of hot springs. With lots of soldiers being sent to the hospital during WWII, a community of military dependents quickly formed after the war. Together, they settled down at the neighborhood, establishing a village now known as Taipei Heart Village (中心新村), where you can see the bygone days in military dependents' village preserved well since 1949.



07

**06** Though built by the Japanese, Beitou Hot Spring Museum is a Victorian-style historical monument that has stood for more than a hundred years. (Photo/Beitou Hot Spring Museum)

**07** The hot spring bath at Beitou Hot Spring Museum used to be the biggest in Asia. (Photo/Beitou Hot Spring Museum)

**08** Next to a hospital built for the military, Taipei Heart Village is one of the few dependents' villages preserved since 1949.



08



## DADAOCHENG

### Local Industries

The Dadaocheng neighborhood, perhaps Taipei's richest in terms of physical heritage, is spread out along the Tamsui River (淡水河) in Datong District. Dihua Street (迪化街), the main street in Dadaocheng, also Taipei's oldest commercial street, is where you will find tons of historical buildings.

From the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Dadaocheng was the Taipei Basin's main commercial center. It was settled in 1853 by Han Chinese fleeing internecine fighting in nearby Bangka, Taipei's oldest settlement. Followed by the establishment of Tamsui Port, Western trading firms began moving in, making Dadaocheng a trading headquarters for four main industries: tea, Chinese medicines, fabrics, and *nan-bei huo* (南北貨, regional specialty goods). Many Chinese merchants copied their Western-style architectural motifs, and after the Japanese took over Taiwan in 1895, neo-Baroque and other Western styling was commonly used on facades. Dadaocheng gained a reputation as Taiwan's key portal for Western influences.

If you walk down Dihua Street these days, you'll still see many of the structures' facades are in the elaborate neo-Baroque style popular during Japan's Taisho period, beautified with artistic flourishes. Look closely and you will see the name of the original business establishment carved above the entranceway. The buildings are in the traditional shophouse style, lined up tightly shoulder to shoulder. This allowed street access to the maximum number of businesses in the days when almost all travel was on foot. The shophouses run deep, with business operations at the front opening to the street and family quarters toward the rear. Today, this street is lined with score upon score of long-in-place shops and new cultural-creative ventures. Most of the heritage buildings have now been renovated. Bars, cafes, and trendy restaurants are opening shops after shops in Dadaocheng, adding to the exotic air of wonder for tourists.



If any one industry was responsible for Dadaocheng's rise, it was tea. The settlement filled up with tea-processing factories, and the Western-mimicking mansions of enriched merchants. Raw tea leaf was hauled in by workers from the hills surrounding the Taipei Basin, the finished product shipped out to destinations around the globe.

Today the factories are but a memory, but various heritage tea-trading businesses have transformed themselves into cultural-creative living museums celebrating Taiwan's tea culture. One such is Sin Hong Choon (新芳春茶行), opened in 1934, housed in an elegant three-story building with a neo-Baroque façade. The enterprise has a multi-pronged mission today — shop, museum, cultural-education center. Learn about Taiwan's tea trade history, purchase your leaf in a traditional-look shop, and glimpse deeper into yesteryear in the preserved assembly-line rooms. Special tea-theme exhibits are also held.

Dadaocheng is also the home to about 200 Chinese herbal medicine wholesale/retail shops. Many have taken part in the city government's Store Reformation Project, beautifying storefronts and interiors. In recent decades, Taiwan folk have come to emphasize diet more than traditional Chinese medicine in maintaining health, and Dadaocheng's heritage businesses have responded. Many Chinese medicine shops have developed products more convenient for consumers, such as single-use packages and tea bags containing healthy Chinese herbs and also run attractive herbal tea stands.



- 09 Stroll down Dihua Street to explore the neighborhood where many local industries originated from.
- 10 *Nan-bei huo*, or regional specialty goods, is one of the most important industries that helped trade in Dadaocheng thrive.
- 11 Today, shops selling creative or handmade products are multiplying in Dadaocheng, alongside (or even within) traditional houses that are still in use.
- 12 Dadaocheng is also the home of many Chinese herb and medicine stores with an open concept design, inviting guests to go in and shop.
- 13 As one of the oldest tea houses in Dadaocheng, Sin Hong Choon is now an exhibition space for the tea industry, where people can see the traditional process of roasting tea leaves.



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## BANGKA

### Lives of the Common Folk

Taipei's oldest settlement, Wanhua/Bangka, took shape in the early 1700s. Bangka is sited where the Xindian and Dahan Rivers (新店溪、大漢溪) meet to form the Tamsui River — optimal for trade within the Taipei Basin of imperial times.

In the imperial days, goods were brought by river transport to the coastal port of Tamsui (淡水) for transshipment to larger ships for delivery to far-flung destinations. A key reason for Bangka's usurpation by Dadaocheng as the basin's main commercial center was the silting-up of its river port. Bangka slipped into a long period of economic decline, but one positive from its period of slumber was that the local community looked inward. The common folk proudly and even defiantly stick to time-honored cultural traditions, and today this is perhaps Taipei's best place for viewing old-time religious practices and culinary traditions.

The soul of the community resides in the magnificent Longshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺), a place of priceless historical importance. This is also perhaps Taipei's most important temple, assuredly its most visited, and one of the world's elite examples of classical Chinese temple architecture. Right along the temple's east-side exterior is old, short, exceedingly narrow Herb Lane (青草巷, Lane 224 on Xichang Street 西昌

14 Longshan Temple is a spiritual site where common folk in Bangka seek inner peace and happiness. (Photo/Richie Chan)

15-16 Shops selling all kinds of herbal products, such as Chinese herbal tea, are lined up one after another along Herb Lane.

17 At Bopiliao Historic Block, the old street scenes from the Qing Dynasty are vividly recreated in the modern day.



17





- 18** Qingshan King Rituals is the biggest and the most important religious event for people in Wanhua. (Photo/Banka Qingshan Temple)
- 19** Follow the locals, and you'll see that Bangka is the place to find the most authentic street eats such as pork-rib soup or braised pork on rice.

街), stuffed with sellers of herbs used in traditional tonics, salves, and medicinal foods. Many buyers will have first consulted with the gods inside Longshan Temple before making their purchase. The use of herbs for medicinal purposes is an intrinsic element of traditional everyday folk life, in items used before the fact to enhance health and after the fact to treat ailments. Herb sellers were a trusted source of herb-specific medical advice.

Sitting five minutes away from the temple is the Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區), where street scenes of the Qing Dynasty (清朝, 1636 A.D. – 1912 A.D.) are preserved in two rows of traditional brick houses. These two-story buildings with arcades on the first floor used to be an important commercial area during the Qing Dynasty and Japanese era. Nowadays, it serves as an educational exhibition hall in the community.

Section One of Xiyuan Road (西園路) on the temple's west side is known as Buddhist Implement Street (佛具街), lined with sellers of statues and other worship items for temples, shrines, and homes. These are also popular with overseas tourists looking for exotic souvenirs. Arguably, praying to the deities for protection of the home, family members and the community at large, and communicating with them are key components of everyday existence, providing believers with assurance for the future.



Another major local temple is Bangka Qingshan Temple (鯤鯓青山宮), built in 1856, known especially for its resplendent carved beams and murals. Its Qingshan King Rituals (青山王祭典) are the biggest event of the year in Bangka, when it seems the whole community comes out. The extravaganza lasts three days with visually and aurally lavish deity parades.

As one would expect, the most traditional culinary ways are also held dear in Bangka. Through Chinese history, a key location for vendor markets to spring up has been around busy temples, serving the steady streams of worshipers from near and far. Bangka's premier night market, known island-wide, is Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market (華西街觀光夜市), immediately west of Longshan Temple. Among the many classic snack treats visitors line up for are pork-rib soup (排骨湯), red-yeast pork (紅燒肉), and cuttlefish stew (花枝羹).

## NORTH TOWN

### Cultural-Arts Corridor

North Town neighbors Dadaocheng's eastern edge. Its boundaries are Chengde Road (承德路) on its west side, Zhongshan North Road (中山北路) on its east, Changan West Road (長安西路) on its south edge, and Minsheng West Road (民生西路) on its north.

This community was largely formed after the Japanese took over Taiwan, with many Japanese civil officials resident. Today, running north-south through its heart from MRT Zhongshan Station (捷運中山站) to MRT Shuanglian Station (捷運雙連站) is the long, narrow Xinzhongshan Linear Park (心中山線形公園), an elongated oasis that used to be the site of a railway line. Temporary cultural-arts exhibits are often staged in the park, food trucks set up every weekend, and an indie-designer craft fair is held on the second weekend of every month. Beneath the park is the longest underground book street Eslite 79 (誠品R79) that sells all kind of design books, adding even more artful atmosphere to the North Town.

In past times, the North Town area was a place of refined cultural pursuits — a tradition carried on today, notably with the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (MOCA Taipei, 台北當代藝術館) and the Tsai Jui-yueh Dance Research Institute (蔡瑞月舞蹈研究社), both located in Japanese-built heritage complexes. The influx of shining new ideas also continues in the form of a growing concentration of cultural-creative shops and bookstores.

MOCA Taipei is in a two-story red-brick building that was built in 1919 as an elementary school for Japanese children. The architecture is a hybrid of Victorian and Edwardian styles, with perhaps the most visually compelling attraction the bell tower rising from the roof's center. The building was meticulously refurbished before Taiwan's first museum dedicated to contemporary art opened in 2001, concentrating on the themes of art, design, and architecture, with no permanent exhibits.



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21



22

20 With the railways now removed, Xinzhongshan Linear Park keeps the elongated shape of the old line in the North Town and has become an oasis for the locals.

21 Formerly the residence of US ambassadors, Taipei Film House is now a cultural site for movie lovers and coffee addicts to enjoy.

22 MOCA Taipei's red brick wall is a historical feature that has remained the same since 1919, creating a strong contrast with the contemporary art displayed inside. (Photo/MOCA Taipei)





As for the Tsai Jui-yueh Dance Research Institute, the institution is housed in what originally was a Japanese-era dormitory for civil servants. The wood-built double-building complex, set amidst a well-tended lawn and green space, was later the home, classroom, and studio for Tsai Jui-yueh (蔡瑞月), praised as the “mother of modern dance in Taiwan.” Part of the space is now taken up by an attractive café with outdoor seating.

Besides, nearby Taipei Film House (台北之家) is a quiet garden of cultural elegance. Formerly the residence of US ambassadors to the ROC — Richard Nixon also famously stayed here during his VP days — this tree-surrounded white-exterior mansion has a striking American antebellum design. Today the heritage site is a place where cinema is celebrated and creative exchange fostered. In addition to sitting down for arthouse films in an 88-seat

theater in what was originally the garage, enjoy specially-made drinks named after famous films in the Café Lumière or in the Le Ballon Rouge bar. Well-crafted souvenir items are sold in the SPOT Design boutique shop — original handmade items from Taiwan and premium-design goods from around the globe.

For hipsters who are looking for a destination with energetic vibes, Chifeng Street (赤峰街), once renowned as “Blacksmith Street” (打鐵街), is the top choice. Vivid graffiti art and installation artworks adorn Chifeng and its adjoining alleys. A small army of youthful entrepreneurs has set up camp in the old commercial buildings — stylish bookstores, cafés, bakeries, workshops, and other cultural-creative initiatives — bringing a chic new spirit while at the same time celebrating yesteryear’s architectural aesthetics.

**23** Tsai Jui-yueh Dance Research Institute might be dedicated to modern dance, but it was actually an old dormitory for civil servants during Japanese era.

**24** There are many hipster cafés on Chifeng Street that feature graffiti on the wall, adding more artful scenes to the streets of North Town.





## SOUTH TOWN

### Knowledge & Enlightenment

South Town Eco Museum encompasses the National Taiwan University campus and the areas south, southwest, and west of it, centered on Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路), Tingzhou Road (汀州路), and Wenzhou Street (溫州街). This area can be defined as an exemplar of the Taiwan democratic mosaic, where over time settlements and communities of disparate peoples have slowly congealed into a single whole.

It is also renowned as an enclave of higher learning. The area was chosen as a demonstration space for urban modernization during the Japanese era, and a base for model education and student cultivation, built around institutions of higher learning. These have given South Town an unusually deep cultural inheritance, evidenced in the form of appealing heritage architecture, a pronounced literary air, and community pride in Taiwan's cherished democratic society.

National Taiwan University and National Taiwan Normal University (國立台灣師範大學) are in Taiwan's elite corps of post-secondary institutions. Since their

**25** National Taiwan University has enlightened South Town for decades in Taipei.

**26-27** Kishu An Forest of Literature is a Japanese-style wooden house where literature lovers can enjoy a leisurely afternoon of writing and sipping delicious coffee.





founding by the Japanese, the two have been a fount of future Taiwan leaders, and students from both have invariably been at the center of protests and other pushes in Taiwan's democratization struggles as well.

Emanating from its small forest of places of higher education, South Town has a powerful thirst for knowledge and enlightenment that is also manifested in its dense population of bookstores, student-focused cafés, and reading rooms. Gongguan commercial district (公館商圈) offers an alluring, eclectic grove of indie bookstores. A prime example is Kafka by the Sea (海邊的卡夫卡), which houses an indie bookstore, indie-label record shop, and café, with arts events, unplugged music performances, and exhibits regularly held. Besides, Guling Street (牯嶺街), not far away from Gongguan, is a second-hand book street overflowing with treasure; the Kishu An Forest of Literature (紀州庵文學森林), centered on an elegant traditional Japanese-style wooden building used as a banquet restaurant during the Japanese era, is a serene space where literature lovers luxuriate in reading, writing, and coffee.

Among the early settlers in the South Town area, where the Xindian River runs out from the hills into this corner of the Taipei Basin, was a strong contingent of Hakka. The Hakka, a Han Chinese subgroup, is the second-largest ethnic group in Taiwan. They are renowned for their simple living habits and frugality, willingness to take on hard, deep family loyalty, and business acumen built on a foundation of integrity. With their own language and customs, Hakka people have developed a unique culture including religion, music, food, architectural features and more. South Town's expansive Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park (台北市客家文化主題公園) is where you can see traditional waterwheels from a rural Hakka village, or even try dried persimmon if you're visiting during fall.

In addition, Taiwan once had almost 900 military dependents' villages — collections of simple cement-walled structures, many right in the midst of cities, home to the families of military personnel who came to Taiwan as part of the 1940s Nationalist exodus from China. The Treasure Hill village (寶藏巖), a dense neighborhood of jerry-built structures spread over a hill overlooking the Xindian River, has

been transformed into the bohemian Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村), brimming with eclectic public artworks, artist studios, and exhibit spaces. The permanent residents remain the core of the area, with the artist village born as an incubator for community revitalization.

Five urban-neighborhood eco museums without walls, each of singular character, await your arrival for cultural exploration. Enjoy! **T**



**28** A Traditional waterwheel, commonly seen in a rural Hakka village, is set out in Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park.

**29** An old military dependents' village in South Town has been repurposed in Treasure Hill Artist Village, brimming with the artworks and creative exhibitions of artists from all over the world.



# TAIPEI THROUGH THE AGES: THE DISCOVERY CENTER OF TAIPEI

A hundred years after its establishment as a center of administration, Taipei City is still surprising people with its ever-changing cityscape. Sure, the neon lights of the Xinyi shopping district illuminate the lives of the younger generations, but the natural light that shines through the vintage windows of the historical buildings in Dadaocheng remains as fascinating as it's always been since the 1920s.

For those unfamiliar with Taipei's past and present, Discovery Center of Taipei (台北探索館) at Taipei City Hall offers you a chance to learn plenty about both in a single visit. Join us on this journey that takes you on a walk through the ages.

- 01 To understand the past and present of the city, Discovery Center of Taipei is the best place to start.
- 02 Street scenes in 1920 in Taipei is showcased at special exhibition "Fumeancats Meets Taipei in 1920."
- 03 Fumeancats (left), from a well-known YouTube channel, and Bravo (right), the mascot of Taipei City, invite you to explore western clothing stores in Taipei from 1920. (Photo/Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

## EXHIBITION HALLS AT DISCOVERY CENTER OF TAIPEI

Discovery Center of Taipei is a museum with four floors of exhibition halls. Each hall is dedicated to a different Taipei-centric theme.

FLOOR ① ② ③ ④

### TAIPEI IMPRESSIONS HALL

This is basically the lobby. The nine-meter wide screen on the wall catches visitors' eyes with projected videos that showcase Taipei from day to night, and all through the four seasons.



## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS HALL

Seasonal or thematic exhibitions are frequently held in the Special Exhibitions Hall on the second floor, with subjects covered including art, history, culture, food and more. Currently, "Fumeancats Meets Taipei in 1920 (黃阿瑪相遇1920臺北市)" is exhibiting until December 31, which shows how Taipeiers lived their lives a century ago.

### SPECIAL CAN'T-MISS EXHIBITIONS

*"Fumeancats Meets Taipei in 1920"*

《黃阿瑪相遇1920臺北市》特展

As previously stated, 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official establishment of Taipei City. As a result, the Taipei City Government is holding a special exhibition at Discovery Center of Taipei. With the influencers Fumeancats (黃阿瑪) being the event ambassadors, the exhibition brings you into their daydreams of the roaring 1920s. It was a time when Taipei was still covered with many rice fields and farmhouses, and people were only just recently introduced to certain aspects of Western culture, such as wearing suits, drinking coffee and driving automobiles.

Museums and schools were built one after the other as civilization began to spread and grow.

Fumeancats were transformed into the characters of students, doctors, or businessmen, taking you into the daily lives of Taipei residents at that time of growth and cultural expansion. From children going to school to students seeking medical help at a medical room, the old days are vividly presented in black-and-white photos and long-preserved documents. There will also be interactive touch screens displaying the contrasting scenes of Taipei in 1920 and the present day, giving you a full understanding of Taipei's transformation over a hundred years.



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FLOOR ① ② ③ ④

## CITY DISCOVERY HALL

There are five interactive exhibition areas within the City Discovery Hall on the third floor. Each exhibition area puts Taipei's present-day street scenes on display, but from different angles. Highlights include *"An Express City — A Relaxed Journey,"* which combines features of food culture, the shopping districts, and the MRT system with a projected board game on the floor, allowing you to get to know the city in a fun format while capturing the daily life rituals in Taipei's oldest neighborhoods. Besides this, a conspicuous hot air balloon in *"Taipei's Streets"* should immediately catch your eyes upon entry. If you stand in the balloon, dazzling city views projected on a massive screen will flash before your eyes. As for *"New West Side Story,"* this area gives you a brief introduction to the west of Taipei. There are also exhibitions that give you a glimpse of Taipei in the '60s, as well as showing Taipei's outdoor greenery from its parks to the surrounding mountains of the Taipei Basin.

### Discovery Center of Taipei

- 📍 1, City Hall Rd. Xinyi Dist.
- 🕒 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed on Mondays)
- 🌐 [discovery.gov.taipei/en/](http://discovery.gov.taipei/en/)
- 🆓 Free entry



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- 04 Step on the striking hot air balloon in *"Taipei's Streets,"* where the view of Taipei is vividly showcased on a big screen.
- 05 The interactive exhibitions include (but are not limited to) projected board games on the floor and a model of a street food stand.
- 06 Discovery Center of Taipei is presenting the origin of Taipei and its evolution through the years.
- 07 In the *"Dialogue with the Time"* Hall, you can also try your luck by drawing a stick and getting a poem that'll tell your fortune.
- 08 *Yeah! Taipei* is a new release at the Discovery Theater, with a 360-degree screen to provide an unprecedented experience.



## THE “DIALOGUE WITH TIME” HALL

Prepare yourself for some time travel at the “Dialogue with Time” Hall on the fourth floor. With a hundred years’ worth of transformation, this is where you can begin to learn all about Taipei’s past. “*Old Taipei City*” first takes you back 300 years to the time when indigenous people still lived here before the arrival of the Han people from China. The five gates built during the Qing Dynasty are recreated in models and presented in “*Stories of the City*.” Follow the flow of “*The Tamsui River*” — the river that helped the sugarcane, tea, and camphor industries thrive. As for “*The City’s Many Faces*,” this exhibition area summarizes the diversity of the city, as it blends the legacies of the Dutch, the Han people and the Japanese, all of whom once called, or still call, Taipei home.

## DISCOVERY THEATER

Discovery Theater (發現劇場) is an enormous 660-square meter theater with a 360-degree annulus screen. Further more, the seating area will rotate as the movie rolls on giving audiences an unprecedented visual experience. All the films are related to Taipei’s stories of past and present, with no admission charge.

### Screening times

🕒 9:30am / 10:00am / 10:30am / 11:00am / 2:00pm / 2:30pm / 3:00pm / 3:30pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

## YEAH! TAIPEI

### 精彩夜台北

Besides learning about Taipei’s old and new, exploring the city by day and night is also a cool way to see some different facets of the capital. Everyone knows that daytime in Taipei is full of excitement, such as embracing the spiritual side of the city at Longshan Temple, or sampling some *xiaolongbao* (小籠包) on Yongkang Street (永康街), but what can you expect to see at night? The answers are packed into the newly-released short film *Yeah! Taipei*, now screening at the Discovery Theater.

The night adventure begins with hopping on a double-decker bus to have a night tour of Taipei, where you can experience the charm of the hustle and bustle of the city in comfort. A trip to Taipei isn’t complete if you haven’t tried shrimping, a fun pastime that locals enjoy, spending some quality time with friends or their significant others. Last but not least, invite your friends to explore the local night markets and taste everything from Taiwanese sausages to amazing bubble tea. Along with more seasonal night events related to culture, religion or art, the nights of Taipei are presented in all their 360-degree glory in *Yeah! Taipei* at the Discovery Theater. 🎬





## ANALOG SOUNDS IN DIGITAL TIMES: DEDICATED RECORD STORES IN THE STREAMING ERA

Technology has always revolutionized the way we live. Music consumption has been no exception, and the music industry has been forced to keep up every step of the way. From tapes and CDs to MP3s and online streaming, the way listeners enjoy music is constantly changing with the times. Only a couple of decades ago, your music collection was limited by your shelf space or your wallet. But today, you can access more music than you could ever possibly listen to in a lifetime for free, and with no storage concerns whatsoever.

Taipei is not immune to the musical revolution. Some bemoan streaming because of quality or (lack of) artist payment, while others just have a fondness for the old ways. There still remains a hardcore bastion of audiophiles who claim that vinyl is the superior medium that gives that incomparable analog sound

that only true purists can appreciate, not to mention the tactile joy of browsing a record store to find that piece of art you've been looking for and enjoy the blissful moment when you put the headphones on. That warm sound is as close as you can get to the real thing.

Amidst the streaming era of 2020, there are a few strongholds still dedicated to outdated formats like vinyl in order to keep alive the memories of analog sounds. *TAIPEI* did a little digging for you and have found five local gems dedicated to quality sound.

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Despite the fact that technology has revolutionized the music industry, there are still many stores in Taipei dedicated to preserving records.



## 1 CHIA CHIA RECORDS

### 佳佳唱片

Established in 1976, Chia Chia is a mainstay of the Taipei scene. Their flagship store is located in bustling Ximending (西門町), and is only a few minutes from MRT Ximen Station (捷運西門站).

Chia Chia attribute their success to their guiding principles: professionalism and diversity. They believe all music is to be appreciated, and they aim to have an eclectic mix of all styles from all eras, and they were one of few to import Western, Japanese, and Korean music 40 years ago, when music from such countries was far from common. Because of the range of older music, they have their share of older clientele who are looking for the music of their memories. From classical music to Taiwanese campus folk albums, and from '70s rock to Bieber fever, Chia Chia has been there to preserve the dominant sounds of the times. If you can't find what you're looking for in store, the staff will try their best to track it down for you.



**02-03** With a history of more than 40 years, Chia Chia has become a must-go record store where music fans can find both imported and local music.

📍 2F, 110, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd., Wanhua Dist. (Zhonghua Branch)

🕒 10:30am - 10:30pm



**04-05** Indimusic is a paradise for diggers to find any kind of music from their expansive collection, with all LPs available to play live in the store.

📍 3F, 297-5, Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd., Daan Dist.

🕒 12:30pm - 9:00pm (Monday to Friday)  
13:30pm - 10:00pm (Saturdays & Sundays)  
(Monthly closed date announced on Facebook page)

## 2 INDIMUSIC RECORDS

### 個體戶唱片行

Indimusic is located between MRT Gongguan Station (捷運公館站) and Taipower Building Station (捷運台電大樓站). They stock a large range of second-hand records with a strong focus on metal and hard rock.

This is a digger's paradise. Many potential customers are turned off by the lack of organization of their catalog, which is a shame because you never know when you may find something you didn't know you were looking for. This is the "digging" process that DJs the world over are so fond of: finding that one magical piece of music that has been hidden away for years. Asking the owner for a recommendation is an act of trust that he appreciates, too, if you find yourself a little lost. This is a place for the true music enthusiast who doesn't mind getting down on their knees to find what they're looking for.



**06-07** Xiao Song not only organizes their products well, but also provides a record cleaning service for their customers.

📍 10, Ln. 225, Sec. 2, Xiyuan Rd., Wanhua Dist.

🕒 10:00am - 8:00pm (Closed on Sundays)

## 4 CLASSICAL PALACE SOCIETY

### 古殿樂藏

As the name suggests, the Classical Palace Society (CPS) is dedicated to classical music. They are located in northern Taipei, close to MRT Mingde Station (捷運明德站). It is a music salon where listeners can treat their ears to the works of the greatest composers ever known. The owner is a major history buff, and has put his passion into preserving vintage sounds. This makes CPS more than a music store, because they are digitizing their entire musical catalog so that nothing is ever lost. This is a significant educational and historical undertaking, and shows a true admiration of classical music.

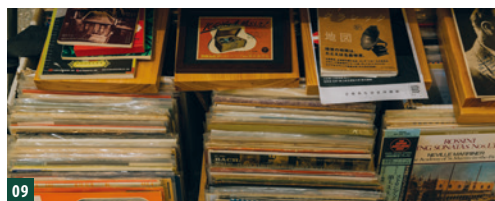
CPS also occasionally holds seminars or workshops to share their love of music. Unlike other record stores that open every day, a reservation is now required before paying a visit to CPS.

## 3 XIAO SONG RECORDS

### 小宋唱片

Xiao Song is a thoughtful and meticulous shrine for music. A little bit off the beaten path, this vinyl hideout is tucked away in Wanhua District, in the very south-western corner of Taipei.

With a massive range of second-hand vinyl, you are sure to find what you're looking for. They carry mostly jazz and classical records. The owner is a seasoned veteran of vinyl and is known for giving customers exceptional recommendations. In addition to that, he also teaches customers how to use and properly maintain their record player. The catalog is impeccably organized and customers are even required to remove their shoes before entry. Such are the high standards of Xiao Song, a nostalgic place dedicated to quality in a time of instant gratification.



**08-09** Besides collecting many classical music records, Classical Palace Society extends their "classical" style to the store's interior design and furniture.

📍 2F, 169, Sec. 1, Xian St., Beitou Dist.

\*Reservation Required (Phone: 0975-057-467)



## 5 THT RECORDS

### THT 唱片

THT Records is a place built for music and people, and it seeks to bring them together under the ethos of “love, power and unity.” It’s a record store, café and bar all wrapped up into one. You can grab a beer and peruse the records on the second floor or just chill out on the loungers. The special thing about their record catalog is that every record reflects the personal taste of the owner, mostly tending toward indie rock, African music and extreme metal, and not just the latest hits.

It’s clear that this cozy space exists to bring music connoisseurs together to share a drink and a conversation. This is something that is lost in the corporate stores or massive arena shows. THT truly unites the people for the love of the power of music.

You can find them in a charming treasure house in Zhongshan District in central Taipei, a ten-minute walk from MRT Xingtian Temple Station (捷運行天宮站).

Traditions exist for a reason. They provide people with comfort, a sense of identity and belonging; they will change with time, as they must. And music is no different. It is so indelibly human. Music from any era, from any place on earth, can touch a soul in ineffable ways. It is not bound by religion or race. It is a part of who we all are.

The bygone age of the record store is reviving in Taipei, and is remaining purely for the love of it. Some may never know the traditions of old, and some may never know the new. There is no one true way. But as long as we exist, so will our music. T



**10-11** Hidden in a small attic, visitors can enjoy a record hunt in THT Records’ cozy space, along with its inviting cafe area.

📍 10-2, Xingan St., Zhongshan Dist.

🕒 12:00pm - 9:00pm (Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays)  
2:30pm - 11:30pm (Fridays & Saturdays)



# FROZEN IN TIME: THREE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS TO VISIT IN TAIPEI

*The purpose of art is to stop time —  
Bob Dylan*

As one of the world's most dynamic and bustling metropolises, Taipei is an inclusive city that welcomes residents and visitors to brush up on its multifaceted history. Despite its dazzling ultra-modern vibe, hidden gems of old Taipei neighborhoods remain throughout the city and retain a distinct character that keeps the old Taipei nostalgia in the heart of every Taipeier.

Here are three old neighborhoods within Taipei where you can feel the good-old days frozen in time, and walk into the eras of Japanese occupation, the KMT-influx, and the U.S. aid period to feel the pulse of living history.







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## SISINAN VILLAGE

Standing at a corner in the “Madison Avenue” of Taipei, Xinyi District, a few low-rise houses in Sisinan Village (四四南村), or Four Four South Village, sit snugly next to each other, creating a fascinating contrast to the neighboring skyscraper Taipei 101 and the surrounding modern buildings. The scene takes visitors down memory lane, through a history of both the triumphant and the tragic.

This site was previously a residential area from 1948 to 1999 for the military personnel of the 44<sup>th</sup> Arsenal of the Combined Logistics Command (聯勤第四十四兵工廠) and their dependents from Qingdao (青島), China. This type of exclusive community is a so-called *juan cun* (眷村, military dependents’ village) in Taiwan, whose original purpose was to serve as temporary housing for Nationalist soldiers after they retreated to Taiwan due to their defeat in the Chinese Civil War.

The houses in these villages were often poorly constructed and Sisinan Village was no exception. Over the years, these settlements have suffered problems such as abandonment, urban decay, and also ethnic conflict. In the 1990s, the government began an urban development plan to demolish these villages and relocate the residents to new apartments.

Thanks to efforts within Taipei’s cultural circles, Sisinan Village is well-preserved today. The Taipei City Government designated this area as the Xinyi Public Assembly Hall (信義公民會館), and opened it to the public in 2003. Today it has been renovated and transformed into exhibition spaces, showcasing the lives of military dependents with the original layout of each house. It also has a host of cultural and creative shops and restaurants. Creative and craft markets are held on weekends, carving out a corner for leisure in this busy city sector. Here, not only can you feel the heritage, but also enjoy the vibrancy.

- 01 With historic buildings and memories of its days as a neighborhood for military dependents, Sisinan Village has become an exhibition space to showcase the bygone era of the 1950s.
- 02-03 Sisinan Village has a leisure outdoor space for people in the neighborhood to hang out to enjoy creative markets on weekends.
- 04 There are shops and stores stationed in Sisinan Village, selling creative crafts or original art works.



- 05-06 The old houses built during the Japanese colonial era, such as Qingtian 76, are well preserved in the Qingtian Street neighborhood.
- 07 Qingtian Street is also known for its greenery and tranquil alleys and lanes.



Fortunately, rather than let the neighborhood fall into total despair and disrepute, a group of civil organizations collaborated with the government, trying to preserve this historical inheritance. This has breathed new life into Qingtian Street. The old wooden houses have been renovated into restaurants, antique shops, teahouses and galleries, full of artistic and cultural ambience. Qingtian 76 (青田七六), one of the well-preserved wooden houses, is considered an iconic landmark in the neighborhood. This old residence of many past professors has now been turned into a vintage café/restaurant. The Japanese-style home remains intact, and there are guided tours held each week to help people learn about its stories as well.

## QINGTIAN STREET

If you want to enjoy a tranquil moment in Taipei, Qingtian Street (青田街), also known as the “Emerald of Taipei,” is definitely a place worth visiting. Near Daan Park (大安森林公園), the small alleys and lanes around Qingtian Street are located at one of Taipei’s busiest areas. You’ll encounter peaceful neighborhoods, shady old green trees, and Japanese-style houses.

During Taiwan’s Japanese era (1895-1945), the buildings around Qingtian Street were once homes for Taipei Imperial University (now National Taiwan University) professors, and many Japanese officials as well. After Japan’s surrender in 1945, these houses became faculty dorms .

However, it is perhaps inevitable that some parts of history are forgotten and left behind. As time went by, the city renewal and urban development marched ahead full-swing, and these Japanese dwellings and old trees slowly faded away. Many of them were even abandoned, and gradually became garbage dumps, relegating this area to the shadows.

One thing which never changes is the fact that humanity is a constant presence in this beating heart of Taipei. Find a day to stroll down Qingtian Street and dip into the true nature and sentiments of the capital.







## MINSHENG COMMUNITY

Minsheng Community (民生社區), a little oasis neatly hidden in Songshan District, is a quaint residential neighborhood with beautiful tree-lined streets, artsy cafés, and multi-concept boutiques, offering a chill getaway for those slower, quality-of-life-oriented hipsters from the madness of the city. Little do people know, Minsheng Community is also a place where you can discover some near-forgotten history.

It all begins with Taipei Songshan Airport (台北松山機場). The airport was built in 1936 during the Japanese era, and served as a Japanese military airbase, also known as Matsuyama Airfield. Back in World War II, many Allied captives in Asia were eventually sent to POW (prisoner of war) camps in Taiwan and were enslaved by the Japanese military. One part of Minsheng Community, an area now known as Minsheng Junior High School (台北市立民生國民中學), was established as a temporary POW camp back then.

As such, many people may wonder how this area ended up turning into such an enchanting avenue. Back in the 1960s, the Taipei City Government carried out an urban development project, building up this area as the first American-style model community in

Taipei. The neighborhood was planned with plenty of parkland and other green spaces. Since it was close to Taipei Songshan Airport, the height of the buildings was limited for flight safety concerns. Therefore, Minsheng Community stands out from the other urban jungles, with its relatively squat four-story apartments, harmoniously integrated with the surrounding greenery.

Nowadays, the neighborhood's apartments are some of the oldest in the city. Covered by vines on the outside, many of them are well-renovated inside, and some have been turned into hip cafés, making the whole community a picturesque scene. Start your adventures in Minsheng Community, walk along the tree-hugged Fujin Street (富錦街), and of course, find a cozy corner to take in the moment. **T**

- 08** With beautiful trees lined on two sides, Minsheng Community is now a quaint residential area in Songshan District.
- 09** Nowadays, there are many hipster cafes lined up side by side in Minsheng Community, creating an artful and graceful atmosphere in the neighborhood.
- 10** A former POW camp established during WWII has been torn down, and has since become a junior high school in Minsheng Community.

# A GUIDE TO MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES IN TAIPEI



Taipei is often touted as a top food destination in Asia, though it is also an up-and-coming city of the arts, blending the old with the new, classical and experimental, modern and contemporary. The rise of local artists, designers or poets such as Baboo, Shu Yuan Wu (吳書原), and Hui-Chih Hsu (許悔之) keep amazing art fans with their creative works, forging the popularity of the local scene. As for places to appreciate their varied outputs, there are the iconic Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM, 台北市立美術館) and MOCA Taipei displaying intimidating creations, along with a plethora of independent galleries, such as Tina Keng Gallery (耿畫廊) and Aki Gallery (也趣藝廊), or collaborative spaces like Venue (濕地) and SUN SUN Museum (森³ sunsun museum). Artists and creative spaces alike have compelled international art fair organizers to launch the Taipei Dangdai Art Fair (台北當代藝術博覽會) and bring global art galleries and media to Taipei. Clearly, the art scene in Taipei is more dynamic than ever before.

From painting to photography, architecture to theater, no matter what fields of art you're into, *TAIPEI* has something for you. Here are a few select spaces that give this city its unique artistic personality.

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- 01 Taipei's modern and contemporary art spaces are not only there for artists to display their creations, but also important places for fans to relax and learn about different forms of art. (Photo/Taipei Fine Arts Museum)
  - 02 Known for its white tube-shaped design and large windows that allow natural light to flow in, Taipei Fine Arts Museum is a bright space where visitors can enjoy exhibitions in a relaxing ambience. (Photo/Taipei Fine Arts Museum)
  - 03-04 Contemporary by U covers a wide range of exhibitions in their gallery, from modern paintings to pop and street art. (Photo/Contemporary by U)



## SPACE 1

# TAIPEI FINE ARTS MUSEUM

Founded in 1983, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum is a public art museum located within the Taipei Expo Park, Fine Arts Area (花博公園美術園區). The white tube-shaped architectural design combines large windows and a courtyard which fills the museum with natural light and gives it a relaxing vibe.

The museum is dedicated to promoting modern and contemporary art and artists in Taiwan. It also organizes the Taipei Biennial (台北雙年展) and the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale that really elevates the museum's global visibility. The entrance fee is very low (general admission is only NT\$30), as TFAM aims to make art accessible to the widest possible audience. In recent years, it began to plan various creative events, such as sleepovers in the museum or workshops for kids. From summer to fall this year, TFAM is also hosting a special exhibition



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called "Between Earth and the Sky: The Spiritual State of Our Times," where you'll see the dialogue between artists and curators, discussing issues from the perspectives of people, environment and ecology, to depict the spiritual state of modern times.

📍 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

🕒 9:30am - 5:30pm  
(Sunday to Friday, Closed on Mondays)  
9:30am - 8:30pm (Saturdays)



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## SPACE 2

# CONTEMPORARY BY U

Contemporary by U gallery just opened its doors at the end of 2019. It's located right next to the established creative hub Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文創園區). The gallery is small but showcases a wide range of contemporary, pop and street artists, including renowned Japanese contemporary artists Yayoi Kusama, Takashi Murakami, and Yoshitomo Nara, as well as selected American street artists like Kaws, WhisBe and Jerkface. With its urban and minimalist interior design, it creates a calming vibe in this busy city. The owners also added a café in this compact space, which differentiates itself from a traditional gallery. Contemporary by U welcomes the younger generation to wander through the art world or simply enjoy a nice cup of coffee.

📍 42, Ln. 553, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Xinyi Dist.

🕒 11:00am - 8:00pm (Closed on Mondays)

SPACE 3

## TAIWAN CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL LAB

Taiwan Contemporary Cultural Lab (台灣當代文化實驗場), a.k.a. C-Lab, is in the former Air Force Command Headquarters, nearly seven hectares in size despite being located in the prime real estate of Taipei's Daan District.

The government has transformed the whole area into a cultural incubator, where many arts and cultural non-profit organizations have been invited to apply for residency. C-Lab is currently dedicated to creating innovative exhibitions, workshops, and educational programs. The historical background of the space gives it an almost haunted feel which adds an interesting ethereal sense to the exhibitions.

C-Lab is currently under three phases of evolution and will gradually develop into a co-creative space and education base, with laboratories with various themes, artist-in-residence programs for



international artists and, most importantly, a place for public engagement and participation. For people who are into experimental contemporary arts, this is the place to go.

📍 177, Sec. 1, Jianguo S. Rd., Daan Dist.

🕒 9:00am - 6:00pm (Closed on Mondays)

SPACE 4

## PON DING

Nestled within a quiet section of the central residential area of Zhongshan, this three-story gallery/bookstore/coffee bar is positioning itself as a creative and cultural community and a collaborative platform for the city.

Pon Ding (朋丁) is like a stalwart neighborhood store that you can visit on a regular basis, but also has dynamic and surprising exhibitions and regular workshops. You could grab a coffee on the ground floor and browse books and magazines and then slowly wander to the second floor to discover some carefully-curated local designer goods. The third floor often exhibits a range of artworks, from photography to illustrations, paintings and installations. The team is always curating the space as an inspiring paradise for art lovers, creators, or anyone who is looking for something different from an ordinary museum or art gallery.



📍 6, Ln. 53, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

🕒 11:00am - 8:00pm (Closed on every last Monday)



## PLAYGROUND

Performance art in Taiwan seems like a niche market, but it always has its own space to shine. PLAYground (南村劇場) is a newly-opened small independent theater and bookstore situated in Sisinan Village. This small, restored historical area contains local cafés and weekend markets, not to mention its proximity to the landmark Taipei 101. This makes it a very popular tourist destination.

PLAYground was born to give this little area a vibrant soul. The name "PLAYground" has shown their playful mindset, as the bookstore is often cleared out to give way for live performances. In order to be a flexible space, all the bookshelves are designed to be mobile, making this space unpredictable and full of possibilities. Make sure you check their program schedule via their official Facebook page before your visit.



📍 56, Songqin St., Xinyi Dist.

🕒 10:00am - 6:00pm (Closed on every first Monday)



09



- 05-06 With its gate always open to welcome people into the community to enjoy modern art, C-Lab is now dedicated to various kinds of innovative exhibitions and educational workshops. (Photo/Taiwan Contemporary Cultural Lab)
- 07 Pon Ding combines its gallery with friendly spaces such as a bookstore and coffee bar, which closes the gap between artist and audience. (Photo/Pon Ding)
- 08 In addition to being a theater, PLAYground is also a bookshop with a built-in study. (Photo/PLAYground)
- 09 PLAYground often invites actors and troupes to hold play readings before the shows start. (Photo/PLAYground)

Art museums are no longer a sacred palace for an entitled few. It's less about the object and more about the experience; less about authorship and more about co-creation; less about formality and more about inclusivity. Taipei is a city of freedom and this definitely allows for this phenomenon to come to life. And there are so many more trendy art spaces to discover that are forever evolving along with the fabric of the city. 📍

# A TIME FOR FAMILY: YOUR GUIDE TO THE MOON FESTIVAL IN TAIWAN

In Taiwan, the Moon Festival, also known as Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節), falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the lunar calendar, and this year it will be on Thursday, October 1. While its origins are agricultural — the Moon Festival is an important harvest celebration — nowadays, the most predominant aspect of the holiday is family reunion; in particular gathering for a big family dinner. Sometimes referred to as Reunion Festival, the celebration falls on this specific date, for it is guaranteed that the moon will be at its largest, shining down on families while they eat and enjoy each other's company, because a big, round moon symbolizes family unity and togetherness.

## MOON FESTIVAL MYTHS AND STORIES

There are various tales associated with the Moon Festival that have been passed down over the generations. One story is that of Chang'e Flying to the Moon (嫦娥奔月). In a time when there were ten suns in the sky, causing plants to wither and rivers to run dry, people were struggling to get by. A talented young archer called Hou Yi (后羿) had enough of this suffering. He took his supernatural bow to the top of Kunlun Mountain (崑崙山) and shot down nine of the ten suns. The people revered him as a hero and many young



men flocked to him to learn archery, including the wicked Peng Meng (逢蒙). Hou Yi later married a beautiful young lady by the name of Chang'e (嫦娥). One day he came across the Queen Mother of the West (西王母) and asked her to give him an immortality elixir, a drug so powerful that those who took it would fly to the heavens, becoming immortal in the process. Reluctant to leave his wife on earth forever, Hou Yi gave Chang'e the elixir to store in a wooden box should he ever want to take it.

Unbeknownst to Chang'e, however, Peng Meng spotted her hiding away the immortality elixir. One day, while Hou Yi and his archery disciples were out hunting, Peng Meng feigned sickness and said he would stay home. Sword in hand, he instead entered Chang'e's house, threatening her to give him the elixir. Refusing to hand it over to this malicious intruder, she took it herself instead and immediately began ascending toward the heavens. Distraught about not seeing her husband ever again, she landed on the moon to stay as close as possible. Hou Yi discovered what had happened upon his return home and was devastated. He wept and called his wife's name toward the sky. While doing so, he noticed that the moon was bigger and brighter than usual and saw what appeared to be his wife's shadow. Then he began laying out offerings of her favorite fruits and burning incense, and upon hearing the news, people began following suit, praying to Chang'e for good fortune and peace. People have prayed to the moon during the Mid-Autumn Festival ever since.

There is also the legend of the Jade Rabbit (玉兔). Said to keep Chang'e company on the moon, the Jade Rabbit is a symbol used widely across Asia. The story says the Jade Emperor (玉皇大帝) disguised himself as a poor, starving old man and begged for food from various animals. The monkey gathered fruit from the trees, while the otter collected fish from the river. The jackal stole curds but the lowly rabbit could only manage to collect grass. The rabbit knew that this would not suffice, so instead sacrificed itself for the elderly man, throwing itself into the fire that the man

had started. The elderly man then revealed his true identity and sent the rabbit to the moon to become the Jade Rabbit. The Jade Rabbit is said to work in the Moon Palace (广寒宫), using a mortar and pestle to grind herbs to produce the immortality elixir. Many associate the rabbit with selflessness and sacrifice.

Yet another legend is that of Wu Gang the Woodcutter (吴刚伐桂) — a woodcutter so tired of his simple life that he desired to become immortal. However, he was not persistent enough and always gave up halfway through when learning longevity techniques. Consequently, the angry Jade Emperor decided to punish Wu Gang by making him chop down a self-healing osmanthus tree on the moon. The tree can be cut down only if Wu does it without respite. Only then would he be rewarded with immortality. However, he chopped away at it without success until this very day, and some say that you can hear Wu Gang still trying to chop down the tree during the Moon Festival period.





## MOON FESTIVAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS



### APPRECIATING THE MOON

Since this day always coincides with a full moon, people often gather with their family to appreciate the view of the moon. The full moon eventually became a symbol of family reunion, and for thousands of years poets have written about gazing at the moon while on the topic of homesickness. Parks and mountains are the most popular spots where family or friends gather and admire the moon during this time.



### FAMILY GATHERINGS

The main part of the Moon Festival is getting together with family, since this is one of the few occasions throughout the year where families can all be in the same place at the same time, without worry for work or other commitments. The family dinner in particular is the most cherished aspect of the reunion, with many people trying to get home, if only for dinner, if they don't have time to see their family for the entire day. People in Taiwan also love to barbecue at these gatherings as part of a relatively recent tradition that emerged just a few decades ago. In addition to gatherings, sending well-wishes to absent family members is also a widely-practiced custom.



### EATING MOONCAKES

Mooncakes (月餅), a kind of traditional Chinese pastry, are another symbol of family reunion, and often cut into the same number of pieces as a family has members. They usually have a sweet stuffing, such as sugar and lotus seed powder, but also come in many different varieties such as red bean or salted egg yolk. Enjoying mooncakes is the most common and widely-practiced tradition of the Moon Festival, and it is also the time of year when these pastries are eaten the most.



### EATING POMELO

Another food that is usually enjoyed during the Moon Festival is pomelo. The pomelo is a round, sweet fruit and considered a symbol of good luck and family unity by the Chinese. In Mandarin, it is pronounced *youzi* (柚子), which is a homophone for a word that translates to "prayer for a son (有子)." So, eating pomelo is said to signify a prayer for the youth of the family. Also, it is said to be one of Chang'e's favorite foods.





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- 02 Before eating pomelo, it is also a fun activity to paint it with your creativity. (Photo/Taiwan Scene)
- 03 Taiwanese share mooncakes with family during the Moon Festival as a symbol of family reunion. (Photo/Foto T)
- 04 Nowadays, it is also common to see locals enjoying BBQ with family and friends in Taipei during the Moon Festival. (Photo/PhuShutter)

While perhaps not as important a date in the calendar as Lunar New Year, to many families, the Moon Festival is still a big part of the year and something to be looked forward to and cherished. So, don't forget to grab a mooncake and, even if you can't be there in person, get in touch with and send well wishes to those you hold dearest. ①



## CELEBRATING TAIPEI CITY'S HISTORY & EVOLUTION IN ARCHITECTURE

Taipei's diverse range of architecture and building construction stems from 100-plus years of history and development. From the Japanese era to the present day, every stage of urban development has undergone different transformations, following the capital city's rapid pace of growth. To find the vestigial memories of each era, following the evolution of architecture is the best way. In doing so, one can find the ingenious art of Koji pottery (交趾陶) preserved in Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮)

since the Qing Dynasty, or see westernized buildings such as the Presidential Office, which has remained graceful since the time of WWII.

2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Taipei City; therefore, we have invited Taipei's premier architectural historian and guide, Cheng Sheng-ji (鄭勝吉), to sit down with us to recount the unique history behind Taipei's transformation.



## GETTING TO KNOW CHENG SHENG-JI



With a keen interest in architecture since the age of ten, Cheng Sheng-ji, who majored in architecture in college, has been engaged in the field for nearly 40 years. Armed with his fascination and knowledge of buildings and design, Cheng has devoted his life to studying historical monuments in Taiwan and guiding viewers to appreciate its traditional elements. His pastime is guiding tour guides and tourists alike in viewing the beauty of Taipei's architecture in terms of its historical context, so that others, too, can fully recognize and appreciate the excellence of Taipei's buildings from different stages of the city's history.

### Q What are the different stages in the evolution of Taipei's architecture and appearance?

A Well, the history of Taiwan as a whole is often marked by different periods of colonization — and the same goes for the history of architecture as well. As architects and historians, we often refer to the different periods of colonial history when discussing architectural evolution, starting with Dutch Formosa (荷治時期), Spanish Formosa (西班牙統治時期), the Ming and Zheng Dynasties (明鄭時期), followed by the Qing Dynasty (清領時期), and lastly, the Japanese era (日本時期) and Post-war era (戰後時期). It's important to recognize the influence of history and politics when looking at these architectural relics. Regarding Taipei's development in particular, since the development of Taiwan actually began from the south in Tainan (台南), with eventual migration to the north in Taipei, we see that the construction and development of the capital city actually began relatively late. Therefore, the major periods influencing the development of Taipei's architecture boil down to three main periods of influence: the Qing Dynasty, Japanese era, and Post-war era.

01 Vintage terraced houses with brick walls and beautiful stone carvings are examples of historic architecture in Dadaocheng.

02-03 During the Japanese era, Western architectural features such as Baroque-style decorations and arched windows were brought to Taipei and left on many old buildings in Dadaocheng.





### Q What are the architectural styles and prominent elements/features of each stage in Taipei's architectural history?

**A** During the Qing Dynasty, Fujian-style was the mainstream; wood materials and red bricks, along with white stone or wooden carvings and murals were their distinctive features. On some of the temple rooftops, you might see Koji pottery as well.

Japanese era was the period when western cultures kicked in due to Japanese advocacy of westernization. Of course, you can find traditional Japanese-style buildings constructed entirely with wood, with black tile rooftops, but the Western-Japanese style was still dominant. Western-Japanese style has many subcategories. One is Classical architecture that is influenced by European architectural traditions, such as British Victorian architecture and Classical architectural styles with features of German buildings, using stone to create a solid and majestic

appearance. Another subcategory is Eclecticism. Such buildings were usually constructed with modern cement, but adorned with classical elements such as large arch windows, Western sculptures or black tile rooftops of a Japanese-style.

Finally, there are two important architectural styles during the Post-war era. Regionalism is a type of "retro" architecture with the purpose of preserving local architecture by incorporating traditional Chinese or Fujian-style features. After 1981, Modern architecture came to the fore. Buildings of varied shapes and personal styles began to spring up one after another in Taipei just as in every country in the world.

**04-06** Look at the delicate carvings on the buildings built during Japanese era, you will find western flowers and localized patterns such as ginseng.



# EVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURE IN TAIPEI CITY

START

## 1683

Qing Dynasty



**Fujian-Style**

*Lin An Tai Historical House & Museum*

**Western-Japanese**

**Traditional Japanese**

## 1895

Japanese Era

**Eclectic Architecture**

**Classical Architecture**

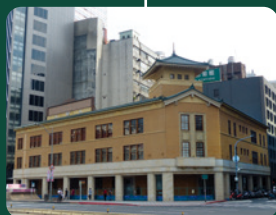
*Linji Huguo Temple*



**Eclecticism**

**Victorian Style**

**German Style**



*National Center of Photography*



*Presidential Palace*



*National Taiwan Museum*

## 1954

Post-War Era



## 2020

**Modern**

*Taipei 101*

**Regionalism**

*Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall*



(Photo/Taipei 101: jon-flobrant, Others: Taiwan Scene)



## Q What are the difficulties and challenges faced in preserving such historical sites and buildings?

**A** The problem with the preservation of historical sites in Taipei is that people were not well aware of the importance of this issue until the 1960s. At that time, no national laws or budgets were set in place to help protect or preserve these historical sites. Besides, to keep up with the rapid pace of modernization at the time, many ancient buildings were demolished before even considering whether or not they should be preserved. Oftentimes, people would suddenly wake up and realize, “Whatever happened to that old building next door?”

However, an incredible watershed that defined a turn in the way of thinking was the Lin An Tai Historical House (林安泰古厝). At the time, the residence was located just opposite Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel (香格里拉台北遠東國際大飯店), on what is now modern-day Dunhua South Road (敦化南路). In order to widen Dunhua South Road, rumors began to circulate among the community about its demolition, and consequently awareness of preservation of such historical buildings suddenly began brewing. Many local artists and literary figures stood up in defense of the traditional Fujian-style architectural piece. This incident contributed to the enactment of *Cultural Heritage Preservation Act* (文化資產保存法) in 1982. Eventually, the Lin An Tai Historical House was moved to its current site for preservation, and as a result, the government began actively classifying historical sites

and formulating plans for long-term preservation in accordance with the new law.

Unfortunately, laws alone cannot help preserve these historical buildings. Often, owners of ancient buildings are actually local residents themselves, who have not been instilled or taught the values and importance of preserving these places. So, if a building is too old, they would rather sell it to the highest contractor for a quick profit or rebuild it themselves rather than spend a massive amount of money on preserving it. Therefore, the authorities' promotion of cultural heritage preservation is extremely important. Aside from implementing long-term education in young people and students, it is also necessary to allocate funds in a timely manner since the budget for each restoration project can directly affect the quality and implementation of restoration. Moreover, passing on knowledge and proper techniques of restoration are equally important, as most skills unfortunately get lost when passed down from generation to generation.

## Q Are there any representative Taiwanese architects and their works in Taipei that we should know about?

**A** During the 1950s to 1960s, Taipei experienced an uprising in the number of architects who studied abroad and came back to Taiwan. Many of them studied under famous European and American architects, and their return to Taiwan has

- 07** As a representative of architecture in the Fujian style, Lin An Tai Historical House & Museum has now been relocated to Zhongshan District after years of campaigning for historic architecture preservation. (Photo/Taiwan Scene)
- 08** Wang Da Hong's bachelor residence is now rebuilt and moved to the park next to Taipei Fine Arts Museum for visitors to see the masterpiece themselves. (Photo/Taiwan Scene)
- 09** Cheng highly recommends Dihua street in Dadaocheng to first-time visitors to experience the authentic lives of locals.
- 10** Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple is not only the center of Dadaocheng, but also an art piece to admire, with its beautiful Koji pottery on the roof.



undoubtedly had a major influence on Taipei's modern construction.

One such figure is Wang Dahong (王大閏), who graduated from the Department of Architecture at Harvard University and was also a classmate of The Louvre architect, I. M. Pei (貝聿銘). Wang's works include Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國立國父紀念館), the College of Law building at National Taiwan University, and many more. Another interesting building to note was actually his own place of residence as a bachelor, originally located on Jianguo South Road (建國南路). It consisted of many red brick materials, floor-to-ceiling windows, and a courtyard — all brand-new concepts to the people of the time. Although the residence was later demolished, several of his students recently raised funds to rebuild an exact replica — Wang Da Hong House Theatre (王大閏建築劇場), which is currently showcased next to the Taipei Fine Arts Museum.

The other architect from that same period of time worth mentioning is Xiu Zelan (修澤蘭), goddaughter of Chiang Kai-Shek. At the time, there were only four female architects in Taiwan's architectural circles, so she stood out among the rest and later received the acclaimed title of "Taiwan's First Female Architect." Her works were very representative of retro-style regionalism architecture; her famous works include the Yangmingshan Chungshan Hall (陽明山中山樓), the library and administration building at Taipei Jingmei Girls' High School (台北市立景美女子高級中學), and many others.



### Q Which piece of Taipei architecture would you recommend most for foreigners to visit while in Taipei, and why?

A If you'd like to see and experience firsthand the evolutionary changes in Taipei's architecture, I'd first recommend taking a trip around Dadaocheng. Almost all of the architectural transformations from the past century can be found in this small, five-square-kilometer block of the city. For example, you can find Fujian-style architecture, such as small Koji pottery details adorning the rooftops of temples like Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple (台北霞海城隍廟), and also see some painted murals. Even more plentiful are the architectural relics left behind from the period of the Japanese era, such as Qian Yuan Chinese Medicine Store (乾元藥行) in the eclectic style that can be found on the buildings lining Dihua Street, for example.

The European-style carvings on the roofs are truly a sight, from family crests showing their family name, carvings depicting their trade (such as tea or Chinese medicine), to carvings of cats and vegetable heads representing lifelong prosperity, and so on. Architects working in this style, such as Yan Yi Cheng Commercial Firm (顏義成商行), married the old with the new to build a sense of peace and harmony within the city and is truly a rare jewel. Moreover, while taking in the architecture, you can also stop to enjoy the local food, music, and culture. If you haven't been already, I would highly recommend taking a trip out there to fully soak in and appreciate the history of architecture in Taipei. T





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## BLUE NOTE TAIPEI *HALLOWED GROUND FOR LOVERS OF JAZZ*

*If you know this island's music scene, you already know where ground zero is for Taiwan jazz. If you're new to the scene, we're here to tell you where this sacred ground is to be found.*

01 When it comes to jazz in Taiwan, Blue Note Taipei is definitively at the top of the list for many music fans.

The music started playing at Blue Note Taipei (台北藍調) way back in 1974. Never missing a beat, the bands play on today at Taiwan's premier jazz nightspot. The island's best talent flock to play here — both Taiwanese and expatriate alike — and Blue Note Taipei has long been noteworthy for bringing in elite talent from overseas. On a recent quiet late afternoon, *TAIPEI* sat down for a chat with the current owner, Huang Xinzhe (黃信哲), who goes by the nickname A-zhe (阿哲), and who took the reins from retiring founder Cai Hui-yang (蔡輝陽) not long ago.





## THE WORK OF A PIONEER

The story of Blue Note Taipei begins with the founder Cai Hui-yang. "Blue Note Taipei started small in a small space by Yongkang Park (永康公園) in 1974, primarily selling jazz and blues records and musical instruments," says A-zhe. Founder Cai Hui-yang soon decided a bigger space and new direction was needed, so a move was made in 1978, first to another spot and then to the current location. His nickname "Cai Ba (蔡爸)" means "Daddy Cai"; A-zhe can't recall when everyone started using this affectionate diminutive.

The venue is in an old, compact commercial building on the corner of busy Roosevelt and Shida Roads (師大路), in an area always pulsing at night, home to a popular night market and many bars, pubs, and eateries. "For the longest time we were a combo operation, originally still selling music and instruments and also operating as a restaurant, café,

tea shop, music venue and bar — even as a classroom, with jazz lessons given in the afternoons," A-zhe recalls.

"Cai Ba was a player, and would hit the stage himself many a night, especially through the early and middle years," says A-zhe. Gradually, to simplify their days, Cai Ba and his wife Cai Ma (蔡媽, Mama Cai) ended up concentrating on the live music. A-zhe says of this time of change, "We continue with the shortened hours today, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, as well as a simple menu and drinks list."

One misconception many people have about the club is that it was named after New York's famed Blue Note Jazz Club. "Not so," says A-zhe. "They opened in 1981, so we're the elder. Our name in fact honors Blue Note Records (an iconic American jazz record label founded in 1939)." Another common misconception is that the "blue" in the name "means we offer both jazz and blues. Jazz and blues are cousins, but we're about jazz here, though blues sneaks in."



## DAYS OF OBSCURITY TO ICON STATUS

When Blue Note Taipei was born, jazz was more than “exotic” in Taiwan. It was almost completely unknown. There were only three TV channels then, which concentrated on mainstream music. Western music on local radio stations was also almost invariably mainstream. Besides, during the martial law period, few people could travel overseas, and many people in Taipei, including A-zhe, were exposed to jazz through American servicemen stationed in Taiwan. He originally worked in a retail operation, where his boss frequently played jazz. “I was intrigued, enjoying the unusual pacing and rhythms,” he says.

“Blue Note Taipei was one of the few places you can find real jazz music back then,” A-zhe recalls.

“Though there was only a small, loyal clientele who enjoyed it like I do.” After martial law ended in 1987, things started to pick up, as more people started studying and traveling overseas and brought new interests back.

In truth, says A-zhe, Blue Note Taipei has not faltered since that time. The club does not have to do much in the way of self-promotion, though it has a website that is effective. The number of local music lovers with a keen ear for jazz has grown of its own accord, and though other live-music nightspots have come and gone, either dedicated to jazz or frequently booking jazz ensembles, since the early days, Blue Note Taipei has enjoyed a reputation as the No. 1 place to go, in Taipei and across the island.

“The reality is that people come looking for us,” he states. “Both players and music fans. We don’t have to go out to convince anybody to give us a try. And beyond the local population — we see both loyal clientele who’ve been coming for decades as well as a constant stream of new, mostly young faces — about a third of our audience each night are tourists. Many expatriates come in regularly, sitting in for a few hours before heading out to spots open into the wee hours, and we get tourists from all around the world too. Generally, they’re music-lovers that have actively checked the local jazz scene and the best places to go online.” One thing that A-zhe and his sister Huang







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Den (黃丹), who goes by her English name Carter, co-manage the joint and find highly complimentary is that they have numerous foreign music lovers who make a point of coming each time they're in Taiwan, and have established personal friendships with them.

A-zhe came to Blue Note Taipei in 2001. "Carter had already been working here as a bartender for a long time. She'd been working elsewhere. Since her boss and Cai Ba were friends, Cai Ba, after being introduced, asked if she'd like to help nights with bartending. Intrigued, she gave it a shot, and fell in love with the music." A-zhe originally came to Blue Note Taipei simply to explore the music, and eventually Cai Ba asked him to join the management team.

When Cai Ba and Cai Ma decided to retire a few years ago, they found they couldn't bear to sell or consider closing the place, "so in the end you could say we 'inherited' it. The relationship Carter and I have with them is not that of bosses/juniors, or simply friends — it's more like parents and children." A-zhe and Carter both have a deep passion for the music. "All types," Carter says, "but yes indeed, mostly jazz." Nowadays, Blue Note Taipei still looks like how it was when Cai Ba started it. The neon lights at the entrance, a wall of jazz records and a small stage with a grand piano have become the features of Blue Note Taipei. "We want to keep it original." Says A-zhe, "for Cai Ba and our guests who have been here to enjoy jazz for decades".



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- 02** A-zhe (left) and his sister Carter (right) are co-managing Blue Note Taipei after taking over the business from Cai Ba, the founder of the establishment.
- 03** Many people have come to Blue Note Taipei in search of the best jazz music the city has to offer, and over the years have become loyal patrons. (Photo/Yenyi Lin)
- 04** Blue Note Taipei is also a relaxing bar for locals and expats who live in the Shida neighborhood.
- 05** The neon-lit entrance has become an iconic symbol of live jazz in Taipei. (Photo/Yenyi Lin)





## THE BLUE NOTE TAIPEI STAGE — DRAWING IN THE BEST LOCAL AND OVERSEAS TALENT

As with its patrons, being the “jazz mecca” in Taiwan means Blue Note Taipei does not need to scout for talent. The talent comes to the club, eager for the Blue Note Taipei stage. During the week, a different group is booked each night, constantly opening up opportunities to new talent. On weekends the same established groups — i.e., Taiwan’s home-grown and expatriate best — are generally given the stage. KU Quartet performs at Blue Note Taipei every Saturday. They are led by Japanese pianist Kaoru Uno (烏野薫) and Taiwanese saxophonist Cheng-Yu Lee (李承育). Another steady source of new young talent is the music programs at Taiwan post-secondary institutions. “We have usually long known the instructors and they vouch for quality,” says A-zhe. “Uno and Lee, for example, are known for teaching jazz in Taipei for almost 20 years. Musicians like them bring more players to us, and we believe this is how jazz can be passed on. More importantly, performances at Blue Note Taipei can always be with high quality.”

One of the examples is Taipei Youth Jazz Orchestra (台北爵士大樂隊青年團), the youth band instructed by Uno. Lee teaches jazz at Fu Jen Catholic University (天

主教輔仁大學) Music Department and their Fu Jen Jazz Ensemble (輔大爵士重奏團) is also a rising student band. Both of the young bands are performing at Blue Note Taipei nowadays.

Foreign talent for the most part contact Blue Note Taipei directly through the website, or sometimes through Taiwan jazz musicians whom they have a relationship with. Often these individuals are experienced and have played or studied music overseas for years. Among the biggest names that have come from overseas are Ralph Lalama, Jerry Weldon, and Hideo Oyama. Other more recent visits especially remembered by A-zhe and Carter are Polish jazz pianist Roman Wróblewski and Henk Kraaijeveld, a versatile Dutch jazz vocalist/songwriter who loves improvisation.

“We’ll also commonly get overseas groups booked in the Taipei Jazz Festival (台北爵士音樂節) and Taichung Jazz Festival (台中爵士音樂節) wanting to swing by for sessions here,” Carter adds. “They’ll contact us in advance for a booking. One example is the SJZ Collective from San Jose, California, which played at the 2018 Taichung Jazz Festival. They then came back again during a 2019 Asia tour.” Individual players will do the same. They won’t just show up unannounced; invariably they know someone who’s on stage that night and have set things up ahead. Some artists have played at the festivals more than once, and have made repeat appearances here as well. We’ve become friends with a number.”

- 06 The KU Quartet performs at Blue Note Taipei every Saturday night, letting jazz fans enjoy professional music every weekend. (Photo/Yenyi Lin)
- 07 Taipei Jazz Festival is an outdoor event showcasing famous jazz musicians and bands, regularly attracting a packed audience. (Photo/Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government)




# PILGRIMAGE DESTINATIONS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Asked what places are must-visit spots for folks from overseas looking to explore the local music scene — specifically jazz — A-zhe has a precise answer: “First, visit Blue Note Taipei — multiple times. After this, must-have experiences are Sappho Live Jazz, the Taipei Jazz Festival, and the Taichung Jazz Festival.”

Sappho is Taipei’s only other music club dedicated to live jazz and is known for the casual atmosphere and professional jazz performances. After operating about 15 years on Anhe Road (安和路), it’s just moved to a

place near MRT Zhongshan Elementary School Station (捷運中山國小站). The Taipei Jazz Festival has been running annually since 2007, with large-scale outdoor concerts by top-notch local and overseas jazz bands staged in Daan Park. The annual Taichung Jazz Festival is held in the city of Taichung (台中市), on the west coast about 90 minutes by vehicle from Taipei.

To experience Blue Note Taipei is to experience a living piece of Taiwan’s modern history — and some great artistry. See you there! 

## Blue Note Taipei

📍 4F, 171, Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd.,  
Daan Dist.

🌐 [bluenotetaipei.com](http://bluenotetaipei.com)

## 2020 Taipei Jazz Festival

🕒 10/1 3:00pm - 5:50pm at Dahu Park (大湖公園)  
10/2 3:00pm - 5:50pm at Linsen Park (林森公園)  
10/16 - 10/18 6:40pm - 8:30pm at Zhongcheng Park (忠誠公園)  
10/23 - 10/25 at Daan Park (大安森林公園), with four concerts each day.





## HERE'S THE TEA ON TAIPEI'S SICKENING DRAG SCENE

*Since the Constitutional Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, Taipei's drag scene has been going from strength to strength. Ahead of 2020 Taiwan LGBT Pride, we take a closer look at this fabulously fierce, or as the queens (and kings) themselves call it, "sickening" performance art.*

It's a warm Friday evening at Café Dalida. The crowd is enraptured by the electric energy of a lip sync duet. Two of Taipei's powerhouse drag queens, Yolanda Milan and Elja Heights, are delivering a

jaw-dropping rendition of "Take Me or Leave Me" from the hit Broadway musical *Rent*. The song's final refrain has people on their feet. A wave of cheers, screams, and finger snaps drown out the last few notes of the song.

Taipei's queer scene is giving us life right now. Since the city emerged a couple of years ago as a regional leader in LGBTQI+ rights, its scene has only been getting better and better. Pride Month, which here happens in October, is arguably the biggest event of its kind in East Asia. Queer events like Blush and C.U.M. (Create Ur Magic) book international drag superstars from across the *RuPaul's Drag Race* multiverse. And a nascent drag king culture is challenging the city's already broad tradition of queer artistry. But things weren't always like this. Here are a few things you should know about Taipei drag and the queer community that supports it.



## TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Alvin Chang is the owner of Café Dalida, one of Taipei's most popular queer bars. Speaking to *TAIPEI* as he waters several dozen botanicals on its leafy terrace, he remembers a time when the LGBTQI+ community was regarded very differently in Taiwan. "Gay people didn't want to be seen," he explains.

Twenty years ago, most of Taipei's queer scene operated discreetly out of basement bars and cafés. A night out back then usually consisted of barstool karaoke and dancing the cha-cha, a quirk Alvin himself still can't get his head around. Queer performances did exist, but most of them were pageant-style shows such as those by the theatre group Redtop Arts (紅頂藝人). "It was more female impersonation than it was drag," says Alvin.

As a student, Alvin traveled across Europe and returned to Taiwan with a love of pop and Western-style drag, both of which he brought to his first gay night at the now-defunct club Source. Arguably the only drag event of its time, it showcased a diverse roster of local and international talent. Some of the queens later went on to work in TV and film, most notably the late comedian Da Bing (大炳) who was known for his dramatic celebrity impressions. Despite this, Alvin resented the closeted nature

of Taipei's gay scene, where everything had to happen behind closed doors. "I would come from the club before sunrise with the stink of cigarette smoke on my clothes," he remembers. "I wanted to create a space where queer people could sit out under the sun, where we wouldn't have to hide who we were."

*"I wanted to create a space where queer people could sit out under the sun, where we wouldn't have to hide who we were."*

- 01 Take a close look at the "sickening" drag scene in Taipei, which is considered one of the most creative and fierce in Asia.
- 02 Alvin (middle) has dedicated himself to popularizing drag queen culture in Taipei, and his drag daughters Yolanda (far left), Kimmy (center left), Elja Heights (far right), and Marian (center right) who "grew up" at Café Dalida can't thank him enough.





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03 There are lots of LGBTQ-friendly bars and restaurants near The Red House in Ximending, including Dalida itself.

04-06 The cozy outdoor space, graffiti on the wall, neon-lights and the energetic bar welcome guests to Dalida every night, no matter what their sexual orientation might be!

## PUTTING DRAG UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN TAIPEI

In 2006, Alvin secured a cheap lease at The Red House (西門紅樓), back then a neglected back alley of boarded-up shopfronts. The alley's layout, which sheltered it from the view of the surrounding busy streets, meant that patrons could sit outside without feeling self-conscious about being at a gay bar. Alvin and his cofounder settled on the name Café Dalida in memory of the French singer and gay icon of the same name. "Between you and me, I wanted to call it Café Madonna," Alvin says with a cheeky smile.

Alvin denies that Dalida is the sole driving force behind Taipei's resurgent drag culture — "I think it's getting popular because of *RuPaul's Drag Race*," he smiles. Still, there's no denying the central role the bar has played in popularizing drag here. A couple of years ago, Dalida began a weekly billing of hugely successful drag shows that spill out onto the street on any given Friday or Saturday. Drag Labs, in particular, draws huge crowds and is an introduction to many new queens who get their start at Dalida. That's what Alvin wanted all along: "I started doing Drag Labs because I wanted to discover new queens in Taipei and offer beginners the chance to experiment with drag and showcase their talent."

## LEADING LOCAL QUEENS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

Alvin's formula of giving the queens free reign over how they want to present themselves and perform has proved popular with both the crowds and the queens. "If I hadn't met Alvin, I wouldn't have gotten into drag," performer Yolanda Milan tells us when we catch up with her after her show. "Some venue owners have asked me to present in a very feminine way or to only







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sing Top 40 hits. Alvin doesn't do that. He understands that drag isn't just about dressing up like a woman or acting girly. It's about taking performance and enhancing it with your exaggerated character. That could be an expression of who you are or a character that you've created; it's art."

The way Dalida encourages queens to experiment with their performance reflects the kind of drag that Taipei specialises in. "It's very fresh," explains Nymphia Wind, another of Dalida's regular queens. "A lot of us have a different take on drag from what you might expect." Nymphia's eclectic style has previously incorporated elements from science fiction, Taiwanese temple art, and '60s mod-era fashion. Others, such as Kimmy Green Tea and Marian, imbue their drag with a more fun-loving, *kawaii* essence. "It really depends on the performer," says Nymphia. "We make drag our own."

Dalida isn't the only queer space embracing this more fluid, dynamic style of drag in Taipei. Monthly queer events like Blush at B1 and Pawnshop's CampX allow audiences to experience the diversity of drag and learn how there's so much more to it than just dressing up like a woman. "Drag is a way of showing everyone that there's more than one way of looking and behaving," explains Yolanda. "Like for me, I identify as a man, but I'm also quite feminine. In the past, that was seen as a bad thing, but through drag, we're showing people that it's not only OK to be feminine, but also that you can take joy in your femininity."



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**07-09** Queens design and prepare their own make-up and costumes, making each show at Dalida unique and original.

## DRAG CREATING CHANGE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The idea that gay men can embrace their femininity is one that communities around the world are still coming to terms with. Alvin recalls, "Until twenty years ago, there were lots of Taiwanese queens here, but then many of them gave up drag because of this idea that if you were a sissy boy in a dress, then you couldn't find a boyfriend." For a while, he could only find foreign queens to perform at Dalida. "I just got used to drag queens being westerners. I had to."

When Dalida first opened, traditional cis-gay bars were the norm in Taipei. As a result, Alvin's first drag



shows were met with complaints from customers, who called performances noisy and intrusive. The mood changed, though, after Taiwan's 2017 Constitutional Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. "It made us feel like we didn't need to hide anymore," he adds. For many queer people, Taiwan's movement towards marriage equality made them feel less self-conscious about their own identities. "Many guys have a little girl in their heart. They're just afraid to show people that," Alvin smiles, "But I think things are starting to change. You can even go to somewhere like G-Star (a typically cis, two-story dance club in Zhongshan District) and see gays embracing their feminine side — now everyone can be like Barbie!" he beams.

As drag gains more widespread acceptance in Taipei outside of the LGBTQI+ community, Alvin sees his performances as an opportunity to educate the public on drag as art, especially in and around the Ximending area. "I remember an old lady in the

**10-11** As in every drag show in the world, lip syncing is always the highlight of the night.

**12-13** Dalida creates a space where audiences can have the closest interaction with the performing queens.



neighborhood walked past our bar at the beginning of a performance. She looked visibly displeased by what she saw. But as the show progressed, I gradually saw the frown on her face fade away, and by the last lip sync, her attitude had completely changed — she loved it."

Also presenting drag to a wider audience is Belle's, an upscale bar in Xinyi District which holds nightly drag shows as part of a larger cabaret experience. Alvin explains that what Belle's is doing is quite important because it's presenting drag to a mostly straight crowd, who might not otherwise come into contact with queer culture.





## WHY THIS MATTERS

Raising public awareness about drag and Taipei's wider queer community does more than just boost drink sales at the bars. Alvin points to the success of Café Dalida, which has previously been visited by political elites such as Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang (蘇貞昌). "When Premier Su visited, it made us feel seen; it made us feel like the government is genuinely interested in knowing what we want."

As Alvin sees it, the Taiwanese government has a big role to play in the future of the local queer community. "It's through their support for us in

government — things like including LGBTQI+ materials in school textbooks — that we can increase awareness and erase the ignorance that lingers around the queer community."

Education generates interest, and that's what Taiwan's drag scene deserves. As a performance art, it's highly entertaining, but to the queens and the community it means something more. As Drag Labs alum Marian professes, "Drag is a way of being myself. It allows me to do things I wouldn't normally dare to do." Taiwan's drag queens and kings are daring, and their authenticity deserves a royal ovation — take it or leave it. **T**



**14** 2020 Taiwan LGBT Pride is going to be held on October 31, with a new rainbow crosswalk painted in the square in front of Taipei City Hall just like this one in Ximending.



► Video Interview

### Café Dalida

📍 51, Ln. 10, Chengdu Rd., Wanhua Dist.  
🕒 7:00 pm - 3:00 am (Sunday to Thursday)  
6:00 pm - 4:00 am (Fridays & Saturdays)

### 2020 Taiwan LGBT Pride

📅 October 31, 2020  
🌐 taiwanpride.lgbt

## DRAG AT TAIWAN PRIDE IS SET TO BE "SICKENING"

A full program of jaw-dropping drag shows, performances, and parties are currently in the works for 2020 Taiwan LGBT Pride. With the theme "Beauty, My Own Way," this year's event is to raise awareness about queerness and gender identity in Taiwan. The parade is currently scheduled for October 31 and will begin with an awesome Rainbow Market, where you can get kitted up with rainbow gear and support local queer businesses. To find it, head to Taipei City Hall and look for the newly painted (and permanent!) rainbow crosswalk and adorable flag-toting mascot by queer illustrator Zoo of Depression (厭世動物園).

## TAIPEI STREET FOOD SCENE 2.0

# FIVE PLACES THAT REINTERPRET OLD TAIWANESE TASTES WITH NEW CREATIVITY

Taiwan has long been known as a food paradise in Asia, and it is especially famous for its mouth-watering street food and beverages, such as bubble milk tea, stinky tofu, crispy fried chicken cutlets and more. While most people think street food is greasy and unhealthy, Taipei, with its profound cultural diversity and dynamic way of life, continues to surprise us with its never-ending food evolutions. Today, a new wave of enjoying street food is rising

in the capital's culinary scene. *TAIPEI* takes you on a tour to explore five restaurants that reinterpret classic Taiwanese street food. While maintaining the authentic Taiwanese spirit passed on by previous generations, these restaurants boldly play with different ingredients, taking traditional Taiwanese street eats from their original incarnations to version 2.0.

## ① HAPPY DUMPLING

The owners of Happy Dumpling (餃子樂) are the second generation of the family which founded Wang's Dumpling (王家水餃), a restaurant in Neihu District that has a history of more than 30 years. Its three branches in Taipei are all furnished with wooden tabletops that remind people of a traditional dumpling stall, but the simplicity of the interior design differentiates it from the old street vendors. Inheriting the family recipe, Happy Dumpling makes handmade pork and leek dumplings with their firm filling, and these are still most customers' top choice. Another must-try are the crispy pan-fried dumplings with shrimp, which blend the flavors of minced pork, Chinese water chestnut, leek sprouts, and an entire fresh shrimp in every bite. Happy Dumpling also specializes in utilizing local ingredients. For example, the Dongmen (東門) branch adds the aromatic peeled chili from Hualien (花蓮) into the pork dumplings, presenting a brand new flavor of this time-honored dish.



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📍 223-3, Jinhua St., Daan Dist. (Dongmen Branch)

🕒 11:30am - 2:00pm, 5:00pm - 9:00pm  
(Closed on Sunday)

**01** Pork and leek dumplings and crispy pan-fried dumplings, along with side dishes such as pickled cucumber and kimchi, are favorite combos at Happy Dumpling.

**02** The bright and warming environment at Happy Dumpling gives customers a comfortable space to dine together.





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## ② SHIYU

Hidden on the second floor of an old apartment near MRT Songjiang Nanjing Station (捷運松江南京站), Shiyu (時寓) has conquered the taste buds of Taipei gourmands with its flavorful beef noodle soup. The name "Shiyu" means "clock apartment," so-named as you will see a wall decorated with antique clocks once you enter the restaurant. In running the restaurant, the owner simply but aptly adapted the old recipes of his mother into healthier versions. The "Lai Jin (來金)" Stewed Beef Noodle Soup, named after his mother, is known for its sweet and clear soup stewed with organic vegetables and fruits, including onions, apples, cabbages, corn, and 12 kinds of Chinese herbs such as dwarf lilyturf and red dates. This version of this cherished Taiwanese classic is actually quite different from traditional beef noodle dishes, which are soy-sauce based. Shiyu is also a stylish bar at night, which allows you to have beef noodles paired with Omar Whisky, an award-winning Taiwan-made spirit.



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📍 2F, 68, Sec. 1, Jianguo N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

🕒 12:00pm - 2:30pm, 6:00pm - 10:00pm  
(Wednesday to Friday)

12:00pm - 3:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
(Saturday and Sunday)

Closed on Monday and Tuesday, and the second Sunday of each month

**03-04** Inheriting and adapting the recipe of the owner's mother, Shiyu's signature dishes include beef noodles and a *luwei* platter.

**05** Featuring Chinese medicine in the soup, Shiyu's counter/bar was also transformed from an old Chinese medicine cabinet.

### ③ CHAU WEI JIUE

*Luwei* (滷味) is an interactive delicacy that requires customers to select meats, vegetables and other local ingredients first, then ask the vendors to braise them in a soy sauce-based marinade. In Taiwan, a *luwei* vendor usually shows up in a dining car. However, Chau Wei Jiue (潮味決) subverts the framework of traditional street food and the dining environment with innovative ideas. “Chau” means

“trendy,” and “Wei Jiue” is a pun which has the meaning of both “tastes” and “battle of flavors.” As the name suggests, Chau Wei Jiue pits traditional *luwei* against another food that Taiwanese are obsessed with — hotpot. This new combination provides different hotpot broths beyond soy sauce for customers to choose from. The most popular one is the spicy hotpot broth, which is full of the aroma of chili. If you want to try something lighter, pork stock or sesame oil stew are both great choices.

- 📍 124, Jiangnan St., Neihu Dist. (Neihu Jiangnan Branch)  
 🕒 11:30am - 9:00pm (Last order at 8:30pm)

**06-08** Combining the flavors of *luwei* and hotpot, Chau Wei Jiue offers the rich taste of street eats with plenty of ingredients displayed at the entrance for customers to choose from.



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### ④ THIRD FLOOR

Third Floor (貳樓) is a hipster-friendly bistro where people enjoy *re chao* (熱炒), aka stir-fried dishes that Taiwanese share among friends and family. It is in an old three-story building that preserves the original interior decor such as the red brick walls and the old-fashioned window grills, adding a cool retro atmosphere to the place. Signature dishes include three-cup duck breast (三杯鴨胸), stirred luffa with salted egg yolk (金沙絲瓜), and spicy braised beef shank (麻辣滷牛腱). While people enjoy these favorites with beer, Third Floor also serves cocktails. Soybean Milk With Fried Dough is a drink mixed with vodka, creating a cocktail with Taiwanese flavors, while Osmanthus Alley combines whiskey with dried Osmanthus flowers, lemon juice, and a dash of egg white on top.



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**09** Third Floor is known for classic “*re chao*” dishes, and don’t forget to pair them with special cocktails featuring Taiwanese flavors such as soy milk and Osmanthus flower.

**10** The features of traditional houses in Taiwan such as wooden tables and brick and mortar walls, are well-preserved at Third Floor.

- 📍 156, Tonghua St., Daan Dist.  
 🕒 6:00pm - 2:00am (Tuesday to Thursday, Sunday)  
 6:00pm - 3:00am (Friday and Saturday)





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## ⑤ TIAN CHUN UMAMI

When it comes to Taiwanese street food, *guabao* (刈包, otherwise known as the Taiwanese hamburger), is definitely at the top of the list. Tian Chun Umami (天淳津品) is a small but exquisite place that provides fusion *guabao* combining classic Taiwanese flavors with elements of the Western sandwich.

*Guabao*, praised by CNN as “taking over the world,” usually consists of braised pork, peanut powder, and cilantro sandwiched within a steamed bun. Tian Chun Umami, on the other hand, mixes flour with charcoal to make buns with fewer calories, replaces cilantro with fresh lettuce grown in an aquaponics system, and accents the juicy pork belly with honey mustard. The unconventional burger is served in a traditional steamer dish, making it all the more instagrammable. The other three options include spiced chicken, braised beef shank with zucchini pickles, and egg with honey mustard. All transform traditional *guabao* from a classic dish to a newfound fusion sensation.



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- 11 Bestsellers such as braised beef shank with zucchini pickles are served in a steamer, a distinguishing feature at Tian Chun Umami.
- 12 Tian Chun Umami is a small but exquisite space with less than 10 seats in the restaurant.

📍 38, Ln. 290, Guangfu S. Rd., Daan Dist.

🕒 11:00am - 7:00pm (Closed on Monday)

Although Taipei is embracing cultural diversity and creativity, it is also starting a new chapter for Taiwanese cuisine that is demonstrating how traditional street food can retain the classic spirit while evolving with modern society. These places aren't just providing delicious Taiwanese cuisine, but also delivering something new. Come and visit Taipei to discover what else the Taipei street food 2.0 scene has to offer! 📌



## TRADITIONAL MARKETS: EXTRAORDINARY WITNESSES OF ORDINARY TIMES

Rows of vendors squeeze closely side by side as the brisk greetings of shopkeepers comprise a raucous symphony. Regulars who know the maze like the back of their hand shop for groceries swiftly, while tourists and visitors look around with curious eyes like Alice arriving in wonderland. All kinds of street foods send mouth-watering aromas flowing through the air, enchanting every living soul like a magic spell.

**01** Traditional markets are important life centers for Taipeiers. You can find all kinds of fresh vegetables and ingredients there.

This is a traditional market in Taiwan, and so much more than that.

At traditional markets, all it takes is a faint smell, or a single bite, to trigger a wave of nostalgia inside every Taiwanese person. It's the place where parents indulge children with just one more bowl of sweet *douhua* (豆花, tofu pudding), and where people insist on going every Lunar New Year in order to buy that one dish which takes them back to their childhood. It's the place where getting lost isn't so terrifying, because every corner feels like home.

Being one of the most advanced cities in the world, Taipei succeeds in keeping the delicate balance between modernity and the preservation of its heritage, while traditional markets in this city have charmed countless people from around the world.



📍 81, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.

## DONGMEN MARKET

### 東門市場

Just a two-minute walk from MRT Dongmen Station (捷運東門站), it is fair to say that Dongmen Market is the best place to start for market explorers in Taipei.

The birth of Dongmen Market can be traced back to nearly a century ago during the Japanese era. At first, it was merely a huddle consisting of various vendors. After the Chinese Civil War in 1949, many immigrants from China gradually settled down near Jinshan South Road (金山南路), where the market slowly became the center of the community. Nowadays, as there are many vendors that are frequently visited by celebrities, it eventually earned itself the nickname of the "Noble Market."

The high quality of goods, historical ambiance and strong local connections attract not only Taipeiers but also travelers who are ready for a novel experience. When visiting Dongmen Market, try some of its best ready-made delicacies, such as fish balls, spring rolls, and red bean cake, or classic dishes

brought over from China. No matter what you choose to sample, the fascinating charm of Dongmen Market never fails to captivate local gourmets.



### MUST-TRY DELICACIES AT DONGMEN MARKET



#### Yu Hong Fu Fuzhou Fish Ball 御紘福魚丸

Chewy fish balls with pork stuffed inside are just like mini piñatas: with every crack and every bite come incredible surprises. Don't forget to try the braised pork rice and soup as well.

📍 1, Ln. 75, Linyi St., Zhongzheng Dist.



#### Dongmen Jiang Ji Douhua 江記東門豆花

Hiding in a humble-looking stand is the best *douhua*, a sought-after dish on the bucket lists of many Taipeiers. With only one item on their menu, you know they're bound to nail it.

📍 5, Ln. 142, Sec. 1, Jinshan S. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.



#### Li Long Taiwanese Pastry Shop 利隆餅店

Li Long has served as a local favorite for breakfast and snacks for more than a decade. Try a meat pie or green onion cake, and you'll understand why it can never be replaced.

📍 15, Ln. 79, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.

(Photo/Top&Middle: Taiwan Scene)

336, Minzu E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

## THE SECOND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WHOLESALE MARKET

### 第二果菜市场

Take a 20-minute walk from Taipei Songshan Airport, and you will find yourself at the Second Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market, also known as Binjiang Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market (濱江果菜市场), as there is much more than just fruits and vegetables on offer.

Binjiang Market is praised as the “Chef’s Garden,” as this important wholesale market has earned its place in the hearts of local chefs with its delectable ingredients. The fruits and vegetables are colorful and sweet, while the meat and seafood are fresh and clean.

For regular families or visitors, try to visit the vendors on the street at dawn. You will see owners chatting with their customers like old friends, while recommending and explaining all kinds of ingredients. Every stand is an encyclopedia, ready to fascinate you with its wonders.



(Photo/Liu Jiawen)

One also mustn't miss trying the fresh seafood. Plenty of seafood vendors sell all kinds of seafood that you probably cannot name. One thing you don't have to doubt is how fresh they are.



## MUST-TRY DELICACIES NEAR THE SECOND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WHOLESALE MARKET



### An An Seafood 安安海鮮

Any sashimi addicts in the house? If so, An An is the perfect place for you. Take a bite of its incredibly fresh sashimi, and brace yourself for the so-called “explosion of the sea” in your mouth.

29, Ln. 410, Minzu E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.



### Ude Light Noodle Shop 光田製麵

With its various types of noodles, Ude is a magician that never runs out of new tricks. The green noodles are made of spinach, and the pink noodles utilize red yeast rice. If you thought you knew noodles, think again!

29, Ln. 370, Longjiang Rd., Zhongshan Dist.



### Binjiang Boneless Goose Stand 濱江剝骨鵝肉

Goose meat is one of the most traditional dishes in Taiwan. The smoky flavor, chewy skin and tender meat found at this small stand is the whole package.

47, Ln. 410, Minzu E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.



📍 55, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.

## NANMEN MARKET

### 南門市場

When you ask Taipeiers about traditional markets, Nanmen Market will probably pop into their heads within seconds. With its grand history and intriguing stories, it's no exaggeration to say it is the proud leader of them all.

With a history of more than one hundred years, Nanmen market offers the most authentic flavors of traditional delicacies from the Japanese or Post-war eras. One can find elders in Nanmen Market looking for a specific store for a particular dish insisting that this is the only place that makes "real" dumplings (or tofu, or meat buns, or...). While others may frown at their stubbornness, they find it impossible to explain how a sniff and a nibble bring them straight back home, which is often somewhere far across the ocean.

Famous for various options when it comes to traditional items, such as dried fruit, jerky, Chinese cured meats, and *zongzi* (粽子, sticky rice dumplings) that are commonly seen on local dinner tables, Nanmen Market is always crowded during the Lunar

New Year, Dragon Boat Festival or Moon Festival, and has become a place where authentic goods that cannot be found elsewhere are cherished, preserved, and passed on.



### MUST-TRY DELICACIES AT NANMEN MARKET

#### Hehuan Sliced Noodles 合歡刀削麵

A shiny trophy stands tall at Hehuan with the words "Best in the World" written on it. The tender beef and chewy noodles reach an incredible balance, drawing tons of fans to enjoy this beloved delicacy.

📍 Booth D13&14 on the second floor

#### Let's Eat Together Kitchen 億起吃飯吧

The menu features only four dishes, including baked pepper buns (胡椒餅) made with Wagyu beef and *congyoubing* (蔥油餅, scallion pancake) adored by regulars. The one thing these dishes have in common is how good they are.

📍 Booth D13&14 on the second floor

#### Kuaiche Jerky 快車肉乾

This small jerky stand that offers plenty of flavors has become a star with its famous "paper meat," which has a crispy texture and tastes like potato chips, with an irresistible aroma.

📍 Booth B34~38 on the first floor



📍 70, Sanshui St., Wanhua Dist.

## U MARKET

### 新富町文化市場

When it comes to vintage Taipei, Wanhua District, also known as Bangka, is often the first area people think of. Sitting five minutes away from Longshan Temple is U Market, with a story just as interesting as that of the city itself.

Back in 1918, U Market came to life and was named "Midorimachi Market (*Luding market*, 綠町市場)." It served as one of the melting pots for Taiwanese and Japanese. However, the businesses were forced to shut down due to World War II. It was not until the post-war period that communities of Chinese immigrants and young people from southern Taiwan brought prosperity back to the market.

As Taipei entered the '90s, U Market began its journey of metamorphosis and has since become a space in which nostalgia and innovation blend together gracefully. The old U-shape building became a municipal historic site in 2006 and also serves as a platform on which discussions about local issues and cultural creations take place. The neighborhood,



(Photo/Top: Liu Jiawen)

including the traditional market on Sanshui Street (三水街), is where visitors can find modern creative artworks and traditional street eats that have never changed through the ages, all in one place.



## MUST-TRY DELICACIES AT U MARKET



### MOT CAFÉ 明日咖啡

Sipping coffee at MOT CAFÉ, you may easily forget that you're in the busiest city in Taiwan, due to its laid-back ambiance and the bright sunlight surrounding you.

📍 70, Sanshui St., Wanhua Dist.



### Bashihbating by Hoshing 1947 合興八十八亭

Sitting in a wooden Japanese-style house, Bashihbating has transformed traditional sponge cake, a dessert made with sticky rice, into delicate desserts beloved by adoring crowds.

📍 70, Sanshui St., Wanhua Dist.



### Su's Rouyuan Youguo 蘇家肉圓油粿

Serving *rouyuan* (肉圓, Taiwanese meatball) for 70 years, Su's Rouyuan is known for its chewy skin and juicy meatball wrapped with fresh bamboo shoots that is beloved by locals.

📍 109, Sanshui St., Wanhua Dist.



📍 100, Shidong Rd., Shilin Dist.

## SHIDONG MARKET

### 士東市場

Tianmu (天母) is often seen as one of the most special zones in all of Taipei City. Originally a residential district, it was under the influence of the U.S. Army stationed there in the 1950s, and has long been considered the most “exotic” region in the city. With its high-end department stores, elegant art centers and vast parks, it is no surprise that Shidong Market in Tianmu is different from its peers, as it focuses on environmental protection and sustainable operations.

Unlike the other markets mentioned above, Shidong Market is a rather new one, established only in 1992. However, it has been reorganized and constructed into a five-star eco-friendly market.

A couple examples of the market’s environmentally-friendly stance are its solar-power electricity system and rain-collecting facilities. The recycling job done by vendors is also marvelous. Unlike most of the traditional markets that are hidden in alleys, Shidong is in an air-conditioned building with bright lighting



(Photo/Gao Zanzian)

installed. With great effort, Shidong Market has shown the world that being a traditional market doesn’t mean it cannot take the road less traveled. **T**



## MUST-TRY DELICACIES AT SHIDONG MARKET

### A Ji Shi Japanese Cuisine 阿吉師

Here, neither menu nor chairs are needed. Tell the chefs your budget, and let them work their magic. Enjoying the feast, you will forget that you’re standing, because it feels like flying.

📍 Booth 88 on the first floor

### Bao Bao House Cuisine 眷村寶飽家常菜飯

With more than 30 dishes to choose from every day, Bao Bao serves dishes with a “taste of home.” The juicy fried chicken and the grilled fish are the top choices.

📍 Booth 234 on the second floor

### Kong Ming Tang Pastry Shop 孔明堂

Kong Ming Tang is known for its low-sugar pastries. While traditional flavors such as shredded turnip cakes and yolk cakes are absolutely authentic, new options like strawberry daifuku mochi and puffs are also popular choices.

📍 Booth 23 on the first floor



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

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



### TAXI

#### Service locations:

West side of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal 1  
West side of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal 2

#### One-way fare:

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

#### Terminal 1 Arrivals Hall

**taxi-service counter:** Tel: (03) 398-2832

#### Terminal 2 Arrivals Hall

**taxi-service counter:** Tel: (03) 398-3599



### PASSENGER SHUTTLE BUS

#### Service locations:

##### Terminal 1 bus pickup point:

Bus pickup zone at B1 Arrivals Hall.

##### Terminal 2 bus pickup point:

Bus pickup zone at the east arcade of the 1st floor Arrivals Hall.

#### Shuttle-service companies:

Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation,  
Evergreen Bus, Citi Air Bus

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

#### Travel time:

40~60 minutes depending on routes

(60~90 minutes for Citi Air Bus,  
which has more stops)

**Schedule:** Every 15~30 minutes



### TAOYUAN AIRPORT MRT

#### Service Locations:

A12 Airport Terminal 1 Station

A13 Airport Terminal 2 Station

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

#### Service Time:

First train - to Taipei 05:57 / to Airport 06:00

Last train - to Taipei 23:35 / to Airport 23:37



## METRO TAIPEI

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

### METRO TICKETS



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



**DAY PASS**  
NT\$150



**24HR PASS**  
NT\$180



**48HR PASS**  
NT\$280



**72HR PASS**  
NT\$380

### IC CARDS

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



### TAIPEI FUN PASS

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



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



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



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



## TRAVEL INFORMATION SERVICES

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

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

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



**Taipei Sightseeing Bus**  
(02) 8791-6557 ext.30



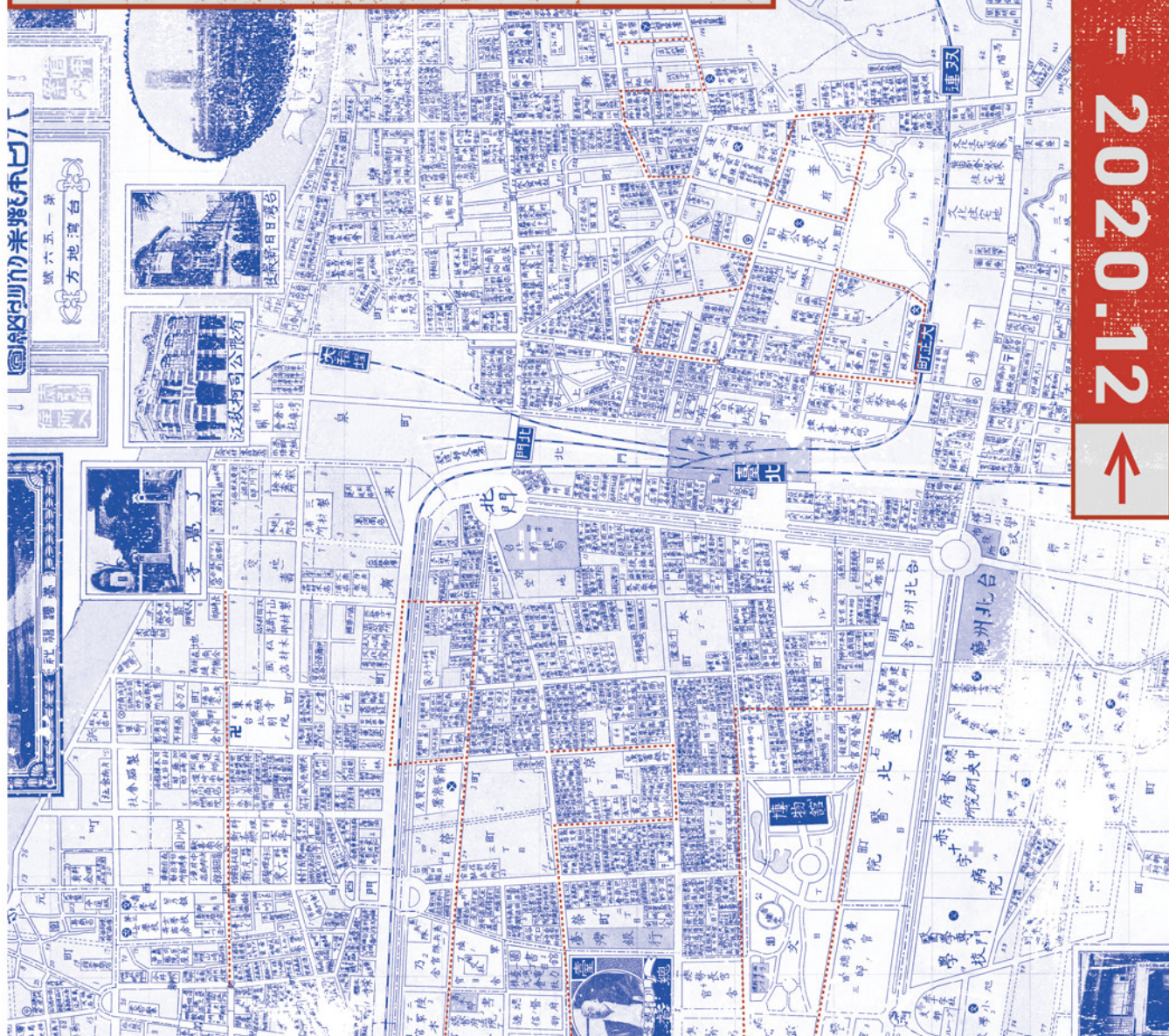
# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Taipei City

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### Explore Taipei's 100-year Evolution

2020.9 - 2020.12



2020/9/12 (Sat.)

Tour Old Japanese-style Dormitories

Taipei Calligraphy Institute, Taipei Qian Hall,  
Qidong Poetry Salon

2020/9/13 (Sun.)

2020 Homecoming Special

2020/9/19 (Sat.)

Tour the Facilities Constructed  
During the Japanese Era

Mitsui Warehouse, Railway Department,  
Abbot Residence of Nishi Honganji Temple

2020/10/24 (Sat.)

Tour Japanese Gardens

Beitou Park, Beitou Library, Plum Garden,  
- Beitou Museum

2020/10/31 (Sat.)

Tour the Official Offices of the  
Japanese Colonial Administration

Presidential Office, Taipei Guest House,  
Taipei Broadcasting Bureau, Executive Yuan

For more information, please check the  
Facebook page of the Bank of Culture



臺北市政府  
BUREAU OF CULTURE

臺北市文化局  
Department of Cultural Affairs





# 白晝之夜

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