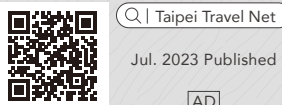




Both located in western Taipei, Ximending and Bangka are among the city's earliest developments. The old streets, religious culture, and temple festivals in Bangka show the unique lifestyle of the locals, making it the best place to experience the charms of an old city. Ximending has long been the center for various youth subcultures in Taipei. The anime shops, cosplay events, tattoo studios, street performers, and the LGBTQ culture are all blended together, creating an inclusive and vibrant feel for the area.

#Belief
#Hipsters
#Folklore
#Subculture
#Trendy Fashion
#Cinemas
#Youth



Q Taipei Travel Net
Jul. 2023 Published
AD

Cultural Landmarks

1.Bangka Qingshui Temple

81, Kangding Rd., Taipei City (02)2371-1517

Built during the Qing Dynasty, the temple houses the rarely seen gable walls decorated with exquisite brick carving. The main deity at this temple is Qingshui Zushi, the protector of immigrants from Fujian province of China, playing a significant role in the heart of Bangka's locals.



2.Bangka Qingshan Temple

218, Sec. 2, Guiyang St., Taipei City (02)2382-2296

Lingnan Zunwang, also known as Qingshan King, is the main god enshrined here, famed for his great power over diseases and evils. The night patrol and pilgrimage held annually on the 23rd day of the 10th lunar month before the birthday of Lingnan Zunwang is a religious extravaganza in Taipei.



3.Bangka Longshan Temple

211, Guangzhou St., Taipei City (02)2302-5162

Being the only temple in Taiwan possessing a pair of copper-cast dragon pillars, nearly 300-year-old, it worships the goddess Guanshiyin Buddha. Each year the temple stages a series of events, making it not only the center of belief for the locals, but also a must-visit destination for tourists.



4.Longshan Cultural & Creative Base

B2, 145, Sec. 1, Xiyuan Rd., Taipei City (02)2302-1598

Stationing in about 20 cultural and creative shops, this underground venue serves as an incubation base for various talents such as street art, traditional opera, cinemas, animation and others, with The Taiwanese Opera Library also set up on site to pass on the traditional folk culture.



5.U-mkt

70, Sanshui St., Taipei City (02)2308-1092

Built more than 80 years ago, this distinctive U-shaped house has now become known for its shopping and culture, where old meets new. The unique central courtyard is now a trendy check-in spot. Visitors come not only for a coffee break, but also for various cultural events and exhibitions.



6.Tangbu Cultural Park

132-10, Dali St., Taipei City (02)2306-7975

In the early days, it was the Taipei Sugar Refinery, and later redesigned as a cultural park. Apart from preserving the original storehouses and sugar making tools, the site also displays the historical artifacts, chronicling the development of the sugar industry. Moreover, visitors can see a sugar cane field, a narrow-gauge locomotive, and a platform at the outdoor space.



Cultural Promenade

7.Bopiliao Historic Block

Ln. 173, Kangding Rd., Taipei City (02)2302-3199

The whole street of traditional shops built in the Qing Dynasty is well preserved. The red brick walls, arched breezeways, and carved window sills all pass on the unique historical culture and architectural features. Visitors can stroll through this area, enjoying exhibitions and participating in activities of film culture and educational promotion.



8.Herb Lane

Ln. 224, Xichang St., Taipei City

All year round, Herb Lane greets its visitors with rich fragrances of various simmering herbs. A sip of either classic Herbal Tea or Bitter Tea is certainly a summer treat. Don't forget to take some herbs home and brew a cup of traditional herbal infusion.



9.Bangka Clothing Shopping District

Dali St. (between Sec. 1, Xiyuan Rd. and Kangding Rd.)

It's the birthplace of Taiwanese clothing manufacturing and wholesale. In its heyday, the apparel was even exported overseas. Nowadays, clothing for middle-aged women, children, and special uniforms are the best-selling items.



Festival Highlights

Qingshan King Festival

Latter part of the 10th lunar month

Bangka Qingshan Taipei

*The information contained herein is correct as of the date of publication.
*For more information, please visit "Taipei Travel Net".

Local Snacks

10.Crispy Oyster Omelette

Inside Guangzhou Street Night Market, Taipei City 0920-901-958

The omelette of this street food stall contains oysters delivered directly from the daily catch and tastes soft and silky with a crispy crust. Specialty dishes such as blanched oysters and oyster soup served with shredded ginger, basil, and fried garlic are guaranteed to be tantalizing.



11.Wuzhou Street Famous Oysters

48, Wuzhou St., Taipei City (02)2306-5912

Hidden in a narrow alley, this traditional Taiwanese eatery offers a wide range of oyster dishes. Their signature dish is the rice topped with freshly cooked oysters, fried shallot, and pickled mustard, drizzled with soy sauce paste, lard, and garlic paste.



12.Feng Yuan Fried Spare Ribs Noodles

180, Guangzhou St., Taipei City (02)2302-4200

Marinated with the chef's secret sauce before they are fried, then paired with noodles, this is the famed signature dish rich in aroma and smooth in flavor. The braised pork rice perfectly proportioned with fatty and lean meat is another local favorite.



13.Liang Xi Hao

194, Sec. 1, Xiyuan Rd., Taipei City (02)2336-1129

Famous for its scrumptious thick squid soup, this century-old eatery has attracted numerous visitors both at home and abroad. With a generous portion of squid, cooked al dente, and served with mustard soy sauce paste, it's a dish that tantalizes the taste buds.



14.Longdu Iced Fruit Store

192, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd., Taipei City (02)2308-2227

The century-old iced fruit store sells shaved ice and sweet soups with all the toppings homemade. The signature dessert, Eight Treasure Ice, is served with a heap of shaved ice laden with eight toppings, such as creamy beans and taro. Superb in every way, it's a perfect icy feast any time!



Landmark Tour

1.Taipei Cinema Park

📍 19, Kangding Rd., Taipei City (02)2312-3717

The park not only preserves historic facilities such as the old factory chimney and cooking furnaces from the Japanese-era gas company, but also showcases trendy street art. This is a place for relaxation and cultural exchange that holds diverse outdoor activities like film screenings and weekend markets.

2.Rainbow Six

📍 In front of Exit 6 of MRT Ximen Station

The bright six-color rainbow landscaping, along with the white letters T-A-I-P-E-I, symbolizes the gender equality and diversity in Taipei City. This rainbow landscape has also become a popular tourist photo-op and check-in attraction.

3.The Red House

📍 10, Chengdu Rd., Taipei City (02)2311-9380

The red brick mansion built during the Japanese period serves today as a cultural-creative and performance venue with LGBTQ-friendly bars. Patrons can come here to have exquisite tea, purchase design products, visit weekend handicraft market, and enjoy cultural events.

4.Nishi Honganji Temple

📍 174, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd., Taipei City (02)2311-5355

Once Taiwan's largest Japanese-style Buddhist temple during the Japanese era, it was mostly destroyed by fire in 1975. The renovation of the bell tower included the carefully replicated bronze bell to replace the original. The site was a place for education and promoting Japanese Buddhism, and now is a multifunctional venue for themed exhibitions.



Bars, Pubs & Hangout Spots

※Excessive drinking is hazardous to your health.

5.Last Order Bistro

📍 75-1, Sec. 2, Hankou St., Taipei City (02)2382-2789

With a picture-worthy neon sign that says “Drunk till the end of the world,” the bistro serves creative drinks and dishes, including glowing and smoking bubbling cocktails, gold-sprinkled curry and shrimp rolls in cones. It's a great hangout spot for everyone.

6.HANKO 60

📍 60, Sec. 2, Hankou St., Taipei City (02)2381-0808

The exterior is disguised as a ticket booth of a cinema but actually the entrance of the bar. Their signature cocktails are inspired by films and history, featuring local ingredients and served either in oriental tea cups or miniature wine jugs, reminiscent of a dream-like spectacle.

7.The Red House Outdoor Bars

📍 The Red House Square (10, Chengdu Rd., Taipei City)

It's home to Taipei's LGBTQ culture due to its proximity to Taipei's gay community in the early days. After the Red House was renovated in 2003, a large number of outdoor bars moved in, making this area an iconic landmark for Taipei's vibrant night life.

8.Bar THY

📍 2F, 114, Hengyang Rd., Taipei City 0976-333-553

A bar without a wine list or flashy decorations, serving drinks ranging from classic selections to creative cocktails that evolve with seasonal ingredients. The meticulously crafted appetizers also add a vibrant touch to the delightful night.



Eat at Ximen

9.Simon Tian Bu La

📍 95, Xining S. Rd., Taipei City (02)2331-2481

Tian bu la (tempura), made with carefully selected fish paste, tastes best when topped with the specially made sweet soy sauce. A sip of the boiled shaved fish soup mixed with the leftover sauce is an unforgettable flavor. The tofu pudding with brown sugar is highly recommended as a sweet note to conclude your meal.

10.Tian Tian Li Restaurant

📍 1, Ln. 32, Hanzhong St., Taipei City (02)2375-6299

Among the various sorts of Taiwanese delicacies offered, the staple is the famed braised pork rice served with a sunny-side-up egg. The rice wrapped with the runny yolk is both aromatic and appetizing. The filling and delicious oyster omelette, the crispy and spongy turnip cake, and the savory and meaty soup are their signature dishes as well.

11.Lau Tian Lu

📍 55, Sec. 2, Wuchang St., Taipei City (02)2361-5588

Being in business for over 60 years, Lau Tian Lu is well-known for its authentic Hong Kong flavor. Braised with soy bean sauce, rice wine, scallions, and Chinese medicinal herbs, the meaty duck wings and chicken feet are both flavorful and juicy. The dried tofu and duck tongue are also popular. All of these are the must-have snacks when people come visit Ximending.

12.Lao Shan Dong Homemade Noodles

(2018-2022 Michelin's Bib Gourmand)

📍 Room 15, B1, 70, Xining S. Rd., Taipei City (in Wan Nian Commercial Building) (02)2389-1216

The beef noodle soup packed with tender beef, savory broth, and noodles cooked al dente tastes heavenly when sprinkled with chopped green onion and pickled mustard. Pork-and-garlic-chives dumplings handcrafted with thick wrappers and tasty fillings are also recommended.

13.Ay-Chung Flour-Rice Noodle

📍 8-1, Emei St., Taipei City (02)2388-8808

Voted by Japanese visitors as the must-eat food in Taiwan, this eatery attracts foodies, who eat standing in the entry way as no seating is provided. The silky noodles paired with chewy intestine, mashed garlic, black vinegar, and chili sauce promise to surprise and satisfy the taste buds.

14.Shanghai Lau Tian Lu

📍 56, Chengdu Rd., Taipei City (02)2375-7575

With a long-standing name for Hong Kong style braised snacks, it's a store that insists on freshly made items. The chewy, fragrant, and crispy duck tongue is a very popular option, winning the heart of every celebrity. The store also sells Su Hung tea snacks, which go perfectly with a pot of hot exquisite tea and some walnuts, shelled watermelon seeds, and black sesame.



15.Niu Dian Beef Noodles (2018-2020 Michelin's Bib Gourmand)

📍 91, Kunming St., Taipei City (02)2389-5577

The clear broth, made by boiling stock bones together with western spices, is beyond delicious. The tender beef and the chewy tendons, combined with the homemade ramen-like noodles, provide a wonderful beef noodles experience. The firmness of the noodles and the saltiness of the soup can be made to order.



16.Three Coins (2018-2020 Michelin 1 star, Michelin Selected)

📍 46, Hengyang Rd., Taipei City (02)2381-7180

It's a time-honored restaurant that offers various freshly made classic Cantonese dishes and Dim Sum. The signature dish, Crispy Roasted Duck, with the thin flaky skin cooked to perfection, is beloved by gourmands.

Streets of Characters

17.Camera Street

📍 Boai Rd. and Sec. 1, Hanko St., Taipei City

Having the highest density of photography and videography stores in Taiwan, the street not only offers all brands of cameras and accessories, but also provides professional consultations and demonstrations for all equipment. It's a utopia for photography enthusiasts.



18.Cinema Street

📍 Sec. 2, Wuchang St., Taipei City

Adjacent to Taipei Cinema Park, the street is packed with movie theaters, which screen various types of films, ranging from blockbusters to art house titles. Movie fanatics are drawn to the street, especially during the many film festivals.



19.American Street

📍 Ln. 96, Kunming St., Taipei City

It's home to shops specializing in clothing and accessories of American pop culture. It's also the best place to see Taiwan's graffiti creations — on the walls, the grounds, and even the shops' roll-down metal doors. The distinctive scenery has also become a popular check-in spot.



20.Tattoo Street

📍 Ln. 50, Hanzhong St., Taipei City

The short alley is home to specialty tattoo and body piercing parlors popular with the younger tattoo/piercing crowd, showcasing that Ximending is a destination for all subculture fans.



21.Wan Nian Commercial Building

📍 70, Xining S. Rd., Taipei City

It's a building housing an old-school market. Different generations of Taiwanese come to this grand emporium, where various trendy items, such as watches, clocks, cosmetics, clothes, toys, models, comics, and magazines, can all be found and purchased at a reasonable price.



22.Costume Street

📍 Hanzhong St., Neijiang St. and Sec. 2, Changsha St.

In the old days, Ximending was home to numerous traditional cabaret clubs. The performance costumes were provided for rent at the nearby Zhonghua Shopping Yard, which was later demolished. The costume shops then moved to Hanzhong, Neijiang, and Changsha Streets, forming an entire city block for costumes and props.



Festival Highlights

📅 Cosplay Battle Ximending | August-October

📍 Ximending Shopping District

📅 Ximen Play and Buy | November-January

📍 Ximending Shopping District

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※For more information, please visit "Taipei Travel Net".

