

# Travel in

2020  
NOV & DEC

# TAIWAN

No. 102

## QUICK CITY TOUR

EXPLORING CENTRAL KAOHSIUNG CITY

## FUN TRIP PLAN

OLD AND NEW PLACES TO VISIT  
IN TAINAN CITY

## EASY HIKING

MATCHA MOUNTAIN IN  
YILAN'S JIAOXI TOWNSHIP

## Bicycling in Taiwan



- ◆ Best Bike Routes
- ◆ Renting Public City Bikes
- ◆ Annual Cycling Festival



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We are fourth-generation tea farmers who inherited the diligence, dedication, and firm sense of mission of our forebears and have developed gifts that combine tea and local cultural and life characteristics, dressing tea in new clothes inspired by Taiwanese culture. Following the idea of healthy, natural, and toxin free, we have given tea a new look to let people of different nationalities and ages have new encounters with different teas.

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4. Dong Ding Oolong Tea
5. Honey Black Tea
6. Winter Oolong Tea



PAH JI HUE` website  
[www.pahjihue.com.tw](http://www.pahjihue.com.tw)



Drip tea bag gift box



## *Welcome to Taiwan!*

### **Dear Traveler,**

Taiwan and her offshore islands offer a veritable cornucopia of scenic cycling options and this land is home to some of the world's premier bike-maker brands (with Giant and Merida the king and queen, respectively). There is therefore little wonder why this nation of island people has developed a passion for two-wheeled self-powered adventure on road and trail over the past few decades.

In 2020, Taiwan's international tourism-promotion focus has been on hiking and green tourism, and in 2021 the spotlight will shift over to another draw directly related, cycling. In this issue we give you a taste of what's to come with all types of useful info on matters cycling, from a general overview down to specific route recommendations and descriptions.

Tire pressure checked? Seat adjusted? Brakes checked? Helmet on and fastened? OK, let's head on out!

First, our overview. In our feature article our writer describes how the term "Bicycle Kingdom" has changed in meaning from recognition of Taiwan's bike-manufacturing prowess to capturing how this has become a place with a wondrous network of easy-access bike paths. We then take you on a quick tour of this network, presenting some of the best cycling options in the north and south, east and west, and offshore.

In the second main article we cover the rich calendar of annual cycling events, which has everything needed to set your cycling-loving heart racing, from serious races to family-fun leisure excursions, all designed to highlight the incredible tapestry of different scenic beauties.

Then, in our third bicycle-related article, our focus shifts to city cycling using the extensive system of public shared-bike rentals.

In *Fun Trip Plan* our time is spent in the heart of the old, cultured, laid-back city of Tainan. In recent years this bastion of traditional culture, rich with shrines and other important historic sites, has developed a strong hipster aesthetic expressed in old buildings repurposed as galleries, cafés, and homestays.

Our *Quick City Tour* page allotment is spent further south, in the city of Kaohsiung, with a whirlwind look at some of this broad-shouldered harbor city's best attractions.

And in *Easy Scenic Trails* it's off along the wonderfully scenic Marian Hiking Trail in the low mountains of Yilan County on the Northeast Coast.

Whatever your preference, traveling by self-pedal, on foot, or by other means, Taiwan has got just what you want. Enjoy!

*Chang Shi Chung*

**CHANG, SHI-CHUNG**

DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TOURISM BUREAU,  
MOTC, R.O.C.



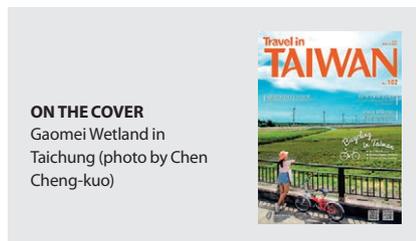
# Travel in Taiwan

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**ON THE COVER**  
Gaomei Wetland in  
Taichung (photo by Chen  
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# THE OLD YEAR ENDS, THE NEW ONE STARTS

Christmas and New Year Season in Taiwan

November  
|  
January

Taiwan Tourism Events  
Calendar Website



## TAIPEI CITY

December 20

### TAIPEI MARATHON

臺北馬拉松

Just a few days before Christmas, which in Taipei means mild temperatures that are perfect for road running, the Taipei Marathon takes place in the heart of the capital. This is for many local athletes the highlight of the annual race calendar, and entry slots can be hard to come by, with the number of participants in the full marathon limited to 8,000 runners; 20,000 are allowed to run the half-marathon. The races start and end at Taipei City Hall, with the route following along some of the city's main thoroughfares.

[www.taipeicitymarathon.com](http://www.taipeicitymarathon.com)



Photo courtesy of Taipei Road Running Association

## TAIPEI CITY

December 31

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

臺北最HIGH新年城 - 跨年晚會

Around the world, the New Year's Eve end of the year is celebrated with a countdown and fireworks, and Taiwan is no exception. The most spectacular of these pyrotechnic shows on the island is without a doubt the one that makes the sky-reaching Taipei 101 tower erupt in a sea of sparkling and exploding lights. The fireworks display is accompanied by a high-tech LED display on one of the giant faces of the city's towering landmark. Throughout the evening lead-up to the spectacular, the crowds are entertained by some of the best-known and most popular local music artists.

[www.travel.taipei](http://www.travel.taipei)



Photo courtesy of Taipei 101 Observatory

## CHIAYI COUNTY

January 1

### ALISHAN SUNRISE IMPRESSION CONCERT 阿里山日出印象音樂會

Where do you want to see the first rays of the sun in the year 2021? How about at one of the most famous sunrise-viewing spots in Taiwan? Visitors take the Alishan Forest Railway to the Zhushan sunrise-viewing platform inside the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area each day of the year, but perhaps the best day to go is January 1<sup>st</sup>. To celebrate the occasion, and to warm up the visitors who go on this most likely cold predawn outing, a live classical-music concert has been staged each year since 2002.

[www.ali-nsa.net](http://www.ali-nsa.net)



Photo by Lin Rui-juan

## TAIPEI CITY

November 1 ~ 30

### LOVING IN GUANDU – FLOWERING YOUR HAPPINESS

愛戀關渡—花現幸福

The Taipei City Government is cooperating with businesses in the Guandu Plain area on the northern bank of the Keelung River, staging a flower festival during the month of November. During this time of the year, flower lovers come here to enjoy fields filled with strikingly colorful flowers, including the garden cosmos, sulfur cosmos, zinnia, and sunflower. You can also see the beautiful Guanyin Mountain and the magnificent Datun and Qixing mountains in the far distance. With the bikeway along the Keelung River passing right by the fields, combining flower gazing with a YouBike bicycle jaunt is highly recommended. During the time of the festival you can also take advantage of a shuttle bus service between MRT Qilian Station and the flower fields.



*Photo courtesy of Public Works Department, Taipei City Government*

## AROUND TAIWAN

Late February ~ Early March

### LANTERN FESTIVAL EVENTS

燈會活動

Among the numerous Lantern Festival events staged each year, the Taiwan Lantern Festival is the largest in scale and the most important. Each year a different city or county serves as host, the honors going to Hsinchu City in 2021. The cities of Taipei and Kaohsiung have their own grand annual Lantern Festival events. For the 2020 edition, the venues in Taipei were the Ximending/North Gate area in the city's west and the area around Nangang Station in the east. The Kaohsiung event has traditionally been staged on the banks of the Love River, with lanterns displayed beside the riverside paths that are popular with romance-seeking visitors throughout the year. The small town of Yanshui (old name: Yuejin), in Tainan City, is best known for its annual beehive fireworks festival. The Yuejin Lantern Festival, lesser known but equally attractive, is a beautiful and much more peaceful affair. You can go on romantic walks through a park and marvel at colorful and beautifully shaped lanterns floating peacefully on the waters of the town's river.

*Photo courtesy of Tourism Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government*



## NEWS

&amp; Events around Taiwan

Photo courtesy of Foodie Market

**NEW NIGHT MARKET IN TAICHUNG**

There are numerous tantalizing options for spending an evening in a night market in Taichung City. The Foodie Market, located in the Yizhong Street shopping area 5 minutes on foot from the Chong Yo Department Store, is the latest addition to the scene. The market comprises a small gathering of stalls plus wooden tables and benches in a pedestrian area, the vendors selling both local and international snack foods. The location has a clean and stylish feel, with strings of light bulbs overhead giving the market a warm and romantic touch.

[www.facebook.com/FoodieMarketYimin/](https://www.facebook.com/FoodieMarketYimin/)

**MICHELIN FOOD GUIDE NOW INCLUDES TAICHUNG**

The Michelin Guide Taipei made quite a stir in Taiwan when it was first published in 2018. Dining is the number one pastime on the island, and finding good places to enjoy fine meals is constantly on the mind of every local gourmet and gourmand. While the second edition in 2019 saw the addition of more starred restaurants and Bib Gourmand selections (including highly popular night-market vendors) in Taipei, the 2020 guide's scope has been expanded significantly, now also featuring select dining options in Taichung, Taiwan's second-largest city. Apart from restaurants and night market vendors, the guide also includes a list of quality accommodation options in Taipei (14 hotels) and Taichung (3). Instead of stars, the hotels are rated with house icons, ranging from one house ("quite comfortable") to five ("luxurious").

[guide.michelin.com/tw/en/](https://guide.michelin.com/tw/en/)

Photo courtesy of Keelung City Government

**HEPING ISLAND CRUISES IN KEELUNG**

Heping Island is well known for its beautiful shoreline festooned with unique rock formations. There is now a more interesting way to get there from the Keelung Railway Station area: taking the "Water Road" service. Twice a day, at 9:30am and 1pm, boats travel from a pier near the Maritime Plaza to Zhengbin Harbor on the south side of Heping Island. Tickets (NT\$1,299) include the boat trip, tour guide (Chinese language), admission to Heping Island Park, and meal vouchers (selected eateries on the island). Online reservation is required. The boat trip allows you to take a closer look at the giant ships (cruise liners) and harbor facilities, including the Agenna Shipyard Ruins.

[keelung.welcometw.com/tour/EnNe](https://keelung.welcometw.com/tour/EnNe) (Chinese)

**NEW TAIWAN TOURIST SHUTTLE ROUTE**

Conveniently connecting major transportation hubs with tourist attractions around Taiwan, the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle network is still growing. The latest addition is the "Yilan Northeast Coast Route" in the far north of Yilan County. The route connects the fishing village of Shicheng with the hot-spring town of Jiaoxi, following closely the scenic Pacific coast. Taking a slow train is a good choice to explore this part of the island as well, but the new bus route has the advantage of taking you even closer to some of the attractions, including the Beiguan Tidal Park and Daxi Fishing Harbor. Buying a day ticket allows you to hop on and off the buses unlimited times, and you will also enjoy discounts when making purchases at some businesses along the way. Plans are to extend the route further north in the future to connect it to the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle's Gold Fulong Shuttle Bus route.

[www.taiwantrip.com.tw](https://www.taiwantrip.com.tw)

# CULTURE

Concerts, Exhibitions, and Happenings

*Because of the COVID-19 situation, performance schedules are in a state of flux; please check official websites for confirmation.*

July 22 ~ February 28

## EXPLORING THE FANTASY EARTH: EXTINCTION, REBIRTH AND THE DREAMLAND OF THE FUTURE

時空探秘：滅絕、新生與未來幻境特展

This special exhibition explores the rise and extinction of species in the distant past, including dinosaurs living in the Jurassic Period, and the possibility of a sixth mass extinction caused by climate change and man-made impacts on the environment. By using a theater-style integration of real and virtual exhibition spaces along with immersive and interactive experiences, visitors are led on a sensory journey through time and space to learn about the extinction of ancient organisms, the modern-day devastation of the Earth, and the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability.



[National Museum of Natural Science](#) [Taichung City]  
[web2.nmns.edu.tw/](http://web2.nmns.edu.tw/)

Until December 13

## UNEVEN HORIZONS: 1957-1983 THE INTERNATIONALIST TAIWANESE PRINTMAKING

不均的平面：1957-1983 面向國際的臺灣版畫

In this exhibition, Taiwan's cultural and artistic development from the late 1950s to the early 1980s is explored by example of printmaking. With the West seen as playing the leading role in the realm of culture and art at the time, artists outside the Western world, including in Taiwan, sought to keep pace, and one key genre used was printmaking. Presented in this exhibition are works by 14 Taiwanese artists, showing their perceptions and responses to the outside world. In addition, a number of Pablo Picasso's original prints that were exhibited in Taiwan in 1975, as well as lithographs of life sketches by Austrian painter Gustav Klimt purchased by the museum for preliminary research on future exhibitions, are on display as external segments of the exhibition.



[Tainan Art Museum \(Building 2\)](#) [Tainan City]  
[www.tnam.museum](http://www.tnam.museum)

Until March 14

## PARASITE: X-FILES

寄生：X 檔案

This is a highly intriguing exhibition focused on the relationships between hosts and parasites. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, such as the interactions between deep-sea creatures, five artists explore parasitic relationships in human societies and, going a step further, ask questions about the way humans think and behave, how memories are created, and how beliefs regarding technology and machines are formed.



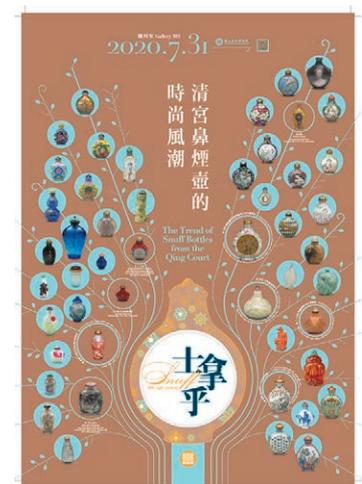
[The Pier-2 Art Center](#) [Kaohsiung City]  
[pier2.org](http://pier2.org)

Until December 31

## THE TREND OF SNUFF BOTTLES FROM THE QING COURT

士拿乎—清宮鼻煙壺的時尚風潮

During the reign of emperor Kangxi (1654~1722), inhaling snuff became a favorite indulgence at the Qing court. In contrast to the West, where the practice originated, the nobility in China did not use cases but elaborately crafted snuff bottles. This exhibition presents some of the best pieces from the museum's vast snuff bottle collection from the Qing Dynasty, among them artworks made of ivory and bone, metal and glass, porcelain, and even gourd.



[National Palace Museum](#) [Taipei City]  
[www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw)

# SNOW MOUNTAIN AND ALISHAN

TEXT & PHOTOS | VISION

Taiwan's Second Highest Peak  
and One of the Most Popular  
Scenic Areas on the Island



Hikers on the way to Snow Mountain

Mountaineers on a quest to conquer the highest peaks and bag the most spectacular mountain vistas around the world are in for a treat when visiting Taiwan. The crown of Taiwan's towering peaks is **Jade Mountain** (Yushan), and the second highest is **Snow Mountain** (Xueshan). Both are conveniently accessed, and easy to climb for experienced hikers. For those who think Jade Mountain is perhaps beyond their grasp, Snow Mountain is a great alternative.



Indigenous delicacies



Alishan forest



Church in Xinmei



Alpine vegetation

#### ENGLISH AND CHINESE

369 Cabin 三六九山莊  
 Alishan Forest Railway (Garage Park)  
 阿里山森林鐵路 (車庫園區)  
 Alishan National Forest Recreation Area  
 阿里山國家森林遊樂區  
 Alishan National Scenic Area 阿里山國家風景區  
 Chashan 茶山  
 Chiayi Old Prison 嘉義舊監獄  
 Chiayi Park 嘉義公園  
 Hinoki Village 檜意森活村  
 Jade Mountain 玉山  
 Kupo Viewing Platform 哭坡觀景台  
 Laiji 來吉  
 Lantan Reservoir 蘭潭水庫  
 Qika Cabin 七卡山莊  
 Shanmei 山美  
 Snow Mountain 雪山  
 Southern Branch of the National Palace Museum  
 國立故宮博物院南部院區  
 Sun-Shooting Tower 射日塔  
 Tefuye Historic Trail 特富野古道  
 Wuling Farm 武陵農場  
 Xinmei 新美  
 YuYuPas 優遊吧斯  
 Zhusan 祝山

## Snow Mountain

The hike to Snow Mountain starts on the northwest side of the **Wuling Farm**, a high-mountain farm that is a great place to visit and stay for a day or two. Many hikers spend a night in the **Qika Cabin** (2,460m), which can be reached in one hour from the trailhead (2,140m) by following a well-maintained path through coniferous forest. A walk of about five hours brings you to the next mountain hut, the **369 Cabin** (3,100m). You'll soon be presented with impressive mountain scenery, which many hikers savor while resting at the **Kupo Viewing Platform** ("kupo" means "slope that makes you cry," hinting at the steep section ahead). The next popular rest stop is the **Snow Mountain East Peak** (3,150m), from which you have more marvelous 360-degree views. The last section of the hike, which brings you all the way up to the **Snow Mountain Main Peak** (3,886m), involves walking first through a dark pine tree forest and then up one side of a glacial cirque. The breathtaking views from the main peak make the effort hiking up Taiwan's second-highest mountain well worthwhile.

For more information, visit the Shei-pa National Park website at: [www.spnp.gov.tw](http://www.spnp.gov.tw).

## Alishan

When tourists talk about visiting Alishan, they often mean the **Alishan National Forest Recreation Area**, which is just a small part of **Alishan National Scenic Area**. While the forest recreation area is popular with tourists who come to take a train on the Alishan Forest Railway, there is much more to do and see elsewhere in the national scenic area, including experiencing the fascinating culture of the indigenous Tsou tribe.

From the forest recreation area, it's a 15min drive along Provincial Highway 18 to the start of the **Tefuye Historic Trail**. This 6.5km-long trail was blazed by the indigenous Tsou tribe centuries ago to facilitate hunting in the mountain forests. During the Japanese colonial era (1895-1945) the first section of the trail was transformed into a narrow-gauge railway used for logging. Some of the rails and sleepers are still in place. The latter section is steeper but also easy to walk, thanks to well-maintained wooden steps leading uphill.

If you want to experience the culture of the Tsou people up close, there are numerous places to visit, including the **YuYuPas cultural park** ([www.yuyupas.com](http://www.yuyupas.com)), which is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Tsou tribe culture. If you want to visit and stay in a Tsou tribe village, head to the village of **Laiji** in the northern Alishan Township, or the three villages of **Shanmei**, **Xinmei**, and **Chashan** in the southern part.

For more info about the Alishan National Scenic Area, visit: [www.ali-nsa.net](http://www.ali-nsa.net).

## Chiayi

Alishan is located in Chiayi County, and most travelers visiting the scenic area will travel through flatland Chiayi on their way to or from the mountains. If you have time for one tourist attraction in Chiayi, make it the **Southern Branch of the National Palace Museum** ([south.npm.gov.tw](http://south.npm.gov.tw)). Located about 15km west of central Chiayi City, the museum was opened in 2015, and in contrast to the National Palace Museum in Taipei, where the focus is mainly on ancient Chinese artifacts and artworks from the Qing imperial collection, the mission of the southern branch is to present ancient treasures from around Asia.

Among tourist attractions within Chiayi City are **Chiayi Park**, home to the **Sun-Shooting Tower**, **Hinoki Village**, and the **Alishan Forest Railway Garage Park**, **Chiayi Old Prison**, and **Lantan Reservoir**.

For more info about Chiayi City, visit [travel.chiayi.gov.tw](http://travel.chiayi.gov.tw). 

# Conquering Taiwan on Two Wheels

Options Almost Without Limit in the “Bicycle Kingdom”

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE  
PHOTOS | RAY CHANG, ASKA CHI, CHEN CHENG-KUO, VISION

*Taiwan’s wondrous range of landscapes – sculpted by nature, sculpted by man, sculpted by the two working together – is often what creates the most powerful memories among international visitors. A new travel trend in recent years is that more and more overseas travelers are coming specifically to explore these landscapes on bike outings from short and relaxed to ambitious (round the island), taking advantage of the first-rate cycling network that has been built up over the past two decades. Whichever sites you’ve set your sights on adding to your bucket list, the bicycle can now be made core to your Taiwan experience.*

## BROWN AVENUE

Arguably the most popular scenic bike route in all of Taiwan, especially attractive when the rice fields are a golden brown right before the harvest





The moniker “Bicycle Kingdom” was attached firmly to Taiwan in the 1980s, during the Taiwan Economic Miracle period, when the island became the global leader in churning out bikes and the “Made in Taiwan” label established a presence on roads and bikeways around the globe. However, counterintuitively, cycling in Taiwan was not common, primarily the domain of youngsters, oldsters, and a small cadre of eccentric hobbyists.

Those days have ridden off into the dustbin of history. Interest in cycling for pleasure and/or exercise has exploded in the past two decades. Present the term “Bicycle Kingdom” to a local today and they think of the thousands of kilometers of bike lanes on roadways and dedicated pathways on the main island and many offshore islands, the army of quality inexpensive rental stations set up wherever people gather in number for recreational cycling, and the heavy schedule of competitive bike races and family-friendly leisure-cycling mass gatherings that fill up the calendar each year. This network has now become a part of Taiwan’s international tourism brand, resulting in overseas travelers specially targeting it for cycling-centered vacations.

Elsewhere in this issue (see page 24) we’ve a special introduction to the calendar of large-scale cycling events, with a focus on the sprawling annual **Taiwan Cycling Festival**, which encompasses outings all across the country. In this article we present you with a quick-paced overview of the superb bike network by heading out on sample day-outings in the north/west/south/east of the main island and on selected offshore islands quickly reached from the main island by plane or ferry.



## TAIPEI

### Tamsui River Riverside Bike Paths

Taipei’s riverside bikeway system circles the city, taking riders along four different rivers. Bike-rental services are available at numerous points along the system, which has a total of 111km of paths, mostly located in the city’s well-developed riverside parks (one non-riverside section, on the city’s east, travels through a more grade-challenging hilly area). The system also interconnects with riverside bikeways that take you deep into the surrounding region, including up to the north coast.

Foreign expatriates and tourists especially like the Tamsui River stretch from **Dadaocheng Wharf** to **Longshan Riverside Park**, because the city’s west side was the first developed in the Chinese imperial era and the start and end points give direct access to two of Taipei’s oldest districts, the Wanhua and Dadaocheng neighborhoods. Dadaocheng Wharf is one of the city’s most popular cycling-start points. There are multiple bike-rental operations here (bikes can be dropped off elsewhere along the system), plus a plethora of cargo-container food and drink stands – even a few with bar service. This has made the wharf area a nighttime hotspot, with many coming out for rides to take advantage of the cool evening breezes, finished with a bite and a beverage in the well-lit core area.



OLD QUARTERS

From the bike path along the Tamsui River you can easily make a side excursion into Wanhua District, known for old temples, narrow alleys, and traditional Taiwanese food



## Wanhua

Longshan Riverside Park gives immediate access to Wanhua District. The first urban settlement in the Taipei Basin taken up by today's Taipei City grew here, as a riverport town where the Dahan and Xindian rivers meet to form the Tamsui. Many locals prefer the name Bangka, the original Taiwanese name (you'll commonly see "Bangka" or a variant used in English signage in the district), which was a rendering of the word for "canoe" in the local native language. Natives paddled here from all around the Taipei Basin to trade. Today the old district, rich in historical architecture, proudly maintains many elements of the traditional Taiwanese lifestyle.

The heart of the community is the large and busy **Bangka Longshan Temple**, founded in 1738. Its surrounding area is filled with old-time markets and family-run shops. The temple is one of the world's greatest showcases of Chinese temple art, renowned for its exquisite stone sculptures, woodcarvings, and bronze work.





THROUGH THE MARKET  
The traditional markets in Taipei present you with a strong taste of the real life of Taipei's people

Along the temple's east wall is **Herb Lane**, packed with shops stuffed with bursting with medicinal herbs used in traditional tonic foods and other health-protecting items. **Bopiliao Historic Block** is a renovated city-block section, filled with heritage buildings, that took shape as a commercial-trade street in the late 1700s/early 1800s.

The **East Sanshui Street Market**, a day market, was formed in the 1920s, and many stalls are today still operated by the same families. Walk to its back, through catacomb-like corridors, to get to the distinctive Art Deco horseshoe-shaped **U-mkt building** ([umkt.jutfoundation.org.tw/en](http://umkt.jutfoundation.org.tw/en)), originally called the Xinfu Market, built by the Japanese in 1935 as Taiwan's first modern public day market. Thoroughly renovated, it today houses a history display, the stylish **MOT Café** ([www.motstyle.com.tw](http://www.motstyle.com.tw); Chinese), and other facilities. Two notable East Sanshui Street Market stalls to visit are "**Red Turtle Grandpa**," which sells handmade traditional-style Chinese rice cakes and oil rice, and the "**Many Dumplings Society**" ([dumplings.bil.tw/Chinese](http://dumplings.bil.tw/Chinese)), which specializes in handmade traditional-style Chinese dumplings featuring many different fillings.





Shops at Dadaocheng Wharf



## Dadaocheng/Beimen

The heart of the Dadaocheng neighborhood, **Dihua Street**, is reached just moments after passing through the large dike gate beside Dadaocheng Wharf. “Dadaocheng” means “large expanse for drying rice in the sun.” Han Chinese moved here in the 1850s after internecine fighting in Bangka, and narrow Dihua Street emerged as the first commercial street in the new, quickly thriving riverport settlement.

Lined shoulder to shoulder with one renovated heritage narrow-façade shophouse after another, today it remains north Taiwan’s premier emporium for *nan-bei huo* or “north-south goods” – i.e., regional specialty goods – as well as for traditional Chinese medicines, traditional-style fabrics, and tea. A great many are still run by the same families that opened them way back when. In recent years new-era businesses aplenty have also set up camp in the heritage buildings, notably chic cafés and cultural-creative boutiques.

The **Beimen** (North Gate) area, filled with important historical sites, lies between Dadaocheng

and Wanhua. The gate itself was the main portal into the old walled city. Other key sites include the **Beimen Post Office**, **Futai Street Mansion**, and **Mitsui Warehouse**. Also specially recommended is the highly informative display of archeological digs in the Taipei Metro’s **Beimen Station**, taking you all the way back into the late Qing Dynasty.

The 1.7ha **National Taiwan Museum Railway Department Park**, opened in July this year, is a history buff’s dream come true. It faces the North Gate across Zhongxiao West Road. The carefully renovated Japanese-built complex was originally the site of the Railway Department during Taiwan’s period of Japanese rule (1895-1945). After WW II it became the headquarters of the Taiwan Railways Administration. The centerpiece of the 1.7ha park is the magnificent brick-and-wood administration building. Other key attractions include the WW II war command center, railway factory, cafeteria, octagonal male wash room, electrical room, and archeological digs.



## Keelung River Right/Left Bank Bike Paths

Taipei's riverside bikeways stretch east-west right through the urban core along the city's share of the Keelung River, with bikeways along both the waterway's right (north) and left (south) banks. On the north side the main riverside park is **Yuanshan Riverside Park**, on the south is **Dajia Riverside Park**. Both are family-oriented, with facilities for all ages. By way of example, large Dajia has a grid of cycle paths, a children's play area and sandpit play area, basketball, tennis, and badminton courts, a croquet field, a large fountain with regular water shows and a central column that shoots 75m high, and much else to entertain.

Numerous major city tourist attractions are a short cycling jaunt from the bikeways. Close to Yuanshan Riverside Park is the tall Chinese palace-style **Grand Hotel** ([www.grand-hotel.org](http://www.grand-hotel.org)) sitting atop a low plateau, for over half a century a key visual landmark seen from across the city. Many non-guests visit for the views and famed restaurants. The sprawling **Shilin Tourist Night Market** is Taipei's biggest, and has a claim to being Taiwan's best and most famous. It started as a day market near a Keelung River wharf in 1909, with the night market inaugurated in 1913. The large **Miramar Entertainment Park** is a modern complex housing a multi-story shopping mall. It's also home to an IMAX theater with a screen that is Asia's largest for showing commercial films, and on its roof is a 70m-high Ferris wheel that provides a terrific cityscape panorama. Further afield is the **National Palace Museum** ([www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw)), repository of the world's greatest collection of Chinese imperial artworks and artifacts.

South of the river, close by Dajia Riverside Park, is **Taipei Expo Park** ([www.expopark.taipei](http://www.expopark.taipei)) comprised of three large park areas used in the celebrated 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo. Numerous futuristic pavilions from the expo remain, and on weekends/holidays various types of entertainment are scheduled, centered around the expansive semi-outdoor food court.

### BRICK AND WOOD

The National Taiwan Museum Railway Department Park, opened in July this year, is a history buff's dream come true



### NATIONAL TAIWAN MUSEUM RAILWAY DEPARTMENT PARK (國立臺灣博物館 - 鐵道部園區)

📍 No. 2, Sec. 1, Yanping N. Rd., Datong Dist., Taipei City  
(台北市大同區延平北路一段 2 號)

🌐 [www.ntm.gov.tw/en/content\\_175.html](http://www.ntm.gov.tw/en/content_175.html)



Dajia Riverside Park



Miramar Entertainment Park



Shop on Dihua Street



ENJOY THE BREEZE

The Gaomei Wetland in Taichung and Dapeng Bay in Pingtung County offer long straight paths with grand panoramic vistas

# TAICHUNG

## Gaomei Wetland

The Gaomei Wetland is in Taichung’s **Qingshui District**, on the south side of the point where the Dajia River empties into the Taiwan Strait. It is 300ha in area, with a seawall stretching 3.5km that is very popular with cyclists. On the mainland side of the wall is a cluster of tourist-focused businesses, notably food sellers, where bike-rental operations are found.

At the wetland’s south end is a new, large visitor center with exhibits on wetland topics. Gaomei is a sanctuary for birdlife, and an important stopover point for migratory birds. The center’s rooftop provides expansive views in all directions.

Also on the south edge is a pretty biker/pedestrian-only bridge that jumps a stream to bring you over to a giant line of wind turbines that makes for striking photos. Directly in front of the aforementioned tourist-business cluster is an 800m boardwalk that brings you far out into the wetland, just a few feet above the teeming world of busy fiddler crabs, mudskippers, and other tiny local denizens. Off the cluster’s north end is an elegant red-and-white lighthouse, built in 1967, that is open to visitors.

Taichung also offers a number of other dedicated bikeways that

are well worth checking out, notably the Dongfeng Bicycle Green Way and Houfeng Bikeway.

## Qingshui

After visiting the wetland area, take a ride inland to explore the old Qingshui urban area. Sitting on a coastal plain, backed by a high north-south ridge, Qingshui was opened for Han Chinese settlement in the 1700s. A good place to use as a hub for a cycle tour is the large, multi-story **Ziyun Temple**. Though a Buddhist temple, it’s as colorful and ornate as Chinese folk shrines. On the temple plaza is a small, always-busy stand, **“Under the Tree Auntie Starch Balls”** – yes, under a big shade tree, and serving delicious old-style plum, herbal jelly, and starch ball cold drinks. Another Qingshui culinary icon is *migao*, most often translated as “rice cake,” but closer to a savory *zongzi* (glutinous-rice tamale) than a baked goodie. There are several renowned old-time *migao* eateries near the temple; a claim to the crown is made by **“King Tower Migao.”**



Rice cake



Ziyun Temple



Starch ball icy treat



# PINGTUNG

“Pingtung Rainbow Bicycle Network”



Dapeng Bay

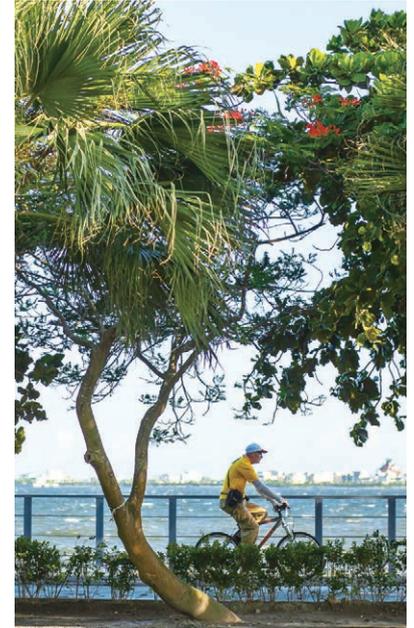
Pingtung is Taiwan’s southernmost county, and its southernmost section is a large peninsula that is home to **Kenting National Park** ([www.ktnp.gov.tw](http://www.ktnp.gov.tw)), a tremendously popular tropical-paradise playground. This peninsula faces the Pacific on the east, Taiwan Strait on the west, and Bashi Channel on the south, each coastal area sporting a markedly different personality. The county’s north area is landlocked, its western section consists of rich flatlands carpeted with productive family-owned farms, many of them fruit operations, and its eastern section is taken up by foothills and highlands of the Central Mountain Range.

In recent years the county government has developed a comprehensive web of integrated bikeway systems highlighting the county’s culture and scenery, dubbing it the “**Pingtung Rainbow Bicycle Network**.” It currently totals more than 460km in length. The “rainbow” in the title refers to the use of color coding for the separate bikeway systems. For example, yellow routes are part of the coastal “blue belt” system, blue routes are part of the Gaoping River/Donggang River river and coastal area system, green routes form the mountain-area “green corridor” system, and indigo is for

bikeways on old railway-line beds.

Two elements of Pingtung culture especially interesting are the indigenous and Hakka communities. The former are primarily explored on the mountain routes. For the latter, specially recommended is the flatland **Changzhi-Linluo Bikeway**. The Hakka are a Han Chinese minority group with a strong presence on the island. The starting (and return point) is the Pingtung Railway Station, with the main places visited along the way on this farm-country jaunt the **Linluo Wetlands Park**, **Pingtung Sports Park**, and **Liudui Hakka Cultural Park**. The “Changzhi” and “Linluo” in the bikeway name refer to the two townships in which riders spend most of their time.

The large-scale Liudui Hakka Cultural Park is run by Taiwan’s Hakka Affairs Council. The core area features exhibits, performance spaces, activity centers, and eateries. There are also farmland, wetland, and grassland areas (with traditional-style architecture) where visitors learn about traditional Hakka agricultural practices. A variety of DIY opportunities are also available, notably the making of traditional Hakka oil-paper umbrellas and *leicha* (savory Hakka-style “thunder tea”).



Liudui Hakka Cultural Park

## LIUDUI HAKKA CULTURAL PARK (六堆客家文化園區)

☎ (02) 723-0100

📍 No. 588, Xinyi Rd., Jianxing Village, Neipu Township, Pingtung County  
(屏東縣內埔鄉建興村信義路 588 號)

🌐 [thcdc.hakka.gov.tw/wSite/mp?mp=7](http://thcdc.hakka.gov.tw/wSite/mp?mp=7)

# HUALIEN / TAITUNG



## East Taiwan Bike Routes

Many cyclists in Taiwan declare that the East Coast region encompassing Hualien and Taitung counties offers the island's best cycling. This is certainly true for recreational cyclists. Provincial Highway 9, which runs between the cities of Hualien and Taitung through the colorful-crop farms of the fecund East Rift Valley, has smooth grades, long and lazy curves, and wide shoulders. Provincial Highway 11, which runs between the two cities on the Pacific side of the Coastal Mountain Range, is much the same, save for a section north of the Xiuguluan River that has more challenging grades and both tighter curves and shoulders.

East Coast trains run through the rift valley, and since bikes can be taken on certain trains (look for the bike symbol on the schedule at [railway.gov.tw](http://railway.gov.tw)), many riders use the service to tackle the valley in sections. As well, some tackle rides combining valley and coast by cycling over the coastal mountains; the easiest-grade mountain-traverse route is Provincial Highway 30, which is tunneled.

## Chishang/Guanshan

The East Rift Valley's flat bottom and pastoral-painting tableaux makes it a popular leisure-cycling destination, with many routes to choose from. Two of the busiest are dedicated bikeways centered on the towns of Chishang and Guanshan, located close to each other. Both are long loop routes, that take you through color-burst paddy field, rapeseed field, and fruit orchard tapestries interlaced with networks of gurgling-water irrigation channels, and to many sites of historical and/or cultural interest. There are numerous bike-rental outlets around the starting points, located at the edge of each respective town. Most any biking need will be satisfied, up to pedal bikes for four people and e-carts for six. The Guanshan loop has the honor of being the first dedicated bikeway created in Taiwan, and remains among the most beautiful.

Perhaps the most pleasing section of the Guanshan loop is a long, well-shaded run along a gushing-water irrigation canal that runs along the mountainside beside the town providing wonderful sweeping views of the town, neat farm plots beyond in all directions, and the Coastal Mountain Range backdrop. The most photographed section of the Chishang loop is **Bolang Dadao** (Brown Avenue), set amidst a sea of paddies, made famous in a Mr. Brown Coffee commercial and EVA Air commercial starring Japanese-Taiwanese pop-idol heartthrob Takeshi Kaneshiro.

## RICE COUNTRY

The East Rift Valley in eastern Taiwan is a source of high-quality rice and the most beautiful paddy field scenery



## Luoshan

The farming village of Luoshan is in a lovely small side valley off the main East Rift Valley, not far north of Chishang. The valley is an indent in the coastal mountains. The local residents are about 80% Hakka. The remainder are majority Han Chinese and indigenous-tribe members. This farming community was the first in Taiwan to go organic, and now its bikeway, far less known than the Guanshan/Chishang facilities, is quickly gaining attention.

The ride, along somnambulant paved roads, starts at the East Rift Valley National Scenic Area's Luoshan visitor center, close to Provincial Highway 9. The first section is flat, through the idyllic farm-field mosaic on the valley floor. The grade then steepens, taking cyclists up through a hilly farmed area. The last leg is a walk to the bikeway's main thrill, the **Luoshan Waterfalls**, a two-tier beauty with a height of about 120m that courses through a jagged mountain fault line.

In the hilly farm area is the other main draw, the **Luoshan Mud Volcano**. With government help, local seniors have revived an old-time art, making "volcanic mud tofu." The muddy waters, mineral-rich, are great for making this savory delectable. A selection of local tourist-oriented farms offer DIY sessions.

Luoshan tofu maker



# OFFSHORE ISLANDS



Bicyclists posing in front of Deyue Tower in Kinmen

## Kinmen

Greater Kinmen and Lesser Kinmen are two large Taiwan-controlled islands that are part of a tightly-packed archipelago just off the coast of mainland China's Fujian province. Their nearest point, on Greater Kinmen, is just 1,800m from the China mainland shore – site of the military-manned Mashan Observation Station. With cold war tensions now eased, many military facilities are now retired and open to the public. The countryside is dotted with productive, small farms and imperial-era clan villages featuring distinctive south Fujian architecture.

Cycling is a breeze here. The terrain is comparatively flat, the roads are of excellent quality (built to handle military hardware), population density is low, and locals drive noticeably slowly. The majority of visitors spend most of their time on Greater Kinmen. There is good tree cover and much shade along its routes, especially on and around rocky **Mount Taiwu** (just 253m high). A tourist favorite is the **Wind Lion God** cycling tour. There are 60-plus colorful statues around the islands to protect homes and farm fields from the sometimes strong winds; Wind Lion tour maps are available at Kinmen tourist information centers.

## Penghu

The Penghu Islands, most often simply referred to as “Penghu,” are a wide-flung archipelago of history-rich islands sitting in the middle of the Taiwan Strait. Like the Kinmen Islands, they lie low to the surrounding waters, with few high points, making them nigh perfect for cycling. Locals describe the collection of 90 islands as “pearls scattered on the turquoise sea.” And again like Kinmen, the long, sleepy roads have little motor-vehicle traffic. The islands are primarily rocky, with massive formations of exposed volcanic basalt columns prominent and seascapes dramatic, and dotted with a number of fine white-sand beaches.

This was a key regional crossroads in the days of sail, including for pirates. The islands are a slow-moving realm of old fishing villages – with a selection of stone-residence villages fully renovated and now major tourist draws – old temples, old lighthouses, and old fort ruins. Small farm plots are protected from the famed winter winds that rush down the strait by low coral walls. The three main islands, connected by bridge, form the outer walls of a comparatively calm inland sea. Sail sports are popular on the water, long and leisurely bike and scooter tours on the land. Boat tours to the outlying islands are also popular, with bike/scooter rental operations set up at docksides, as are nighttime squid-fishing outings. **T**

Old Street in Penghu's Magong City



### 📌 MORE INFO

A few specially recommended resources on matters cycling...

On Taiwan cycling in general: [taiwanon2wheels.com](http://taiwanon2wheels.com)

On Taipei's riverside bikeway system: [travel.taipei/en/must-visit/riverside-bikeway](http://travel.taipei/en/must-visit/riverside-bikeway)

As well, note that *Travel in Taiwan* has specially covered many of the bikeways mentioned in these pages, such as the Chishang/Guanshan and Houfeng/Dongfeng rides, as well as numerous others. Visit our back issues at [issuu.com/travelintaiwan](http://issuu.com/travelintaiwan).

### 🗺️ ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Bangka 艋舺
- Beimen 北門
- Bolang Dadao 伯朗大道
- Changzhi-Linluo Bikeway 長治 - 麟洛自行車道
- Chishang 池上
- Dadaocheng (Wharf) 大稻埕 (碼頭)
- Dajia Riverside Park 大佳河濱公園
- Dongfeng Bicycle Green Way 東豐自行車綠廊
- East Sanshui Street Market 東三水街市場
- Gaomei Wetland 高美濕地
- Guanshan 關山
- Houfeng Bikeway 后豐鐵馬道
- "King Tower Migao" 王塔米糕
- leicha 擂茶
- Linluo Wetlands Park 麟洛濕地公園
- Longshan Riverside Park 龍山河濱公園
- Luoshan Bikeway 羅山自行車道
- Luoshan Waterfalls 羅山瀑布

- Luoshan Mud Volcano 羅山泥火山
- "Many Dumplings Society" 多餃社
- Mashan Observation Station 馬山觀測站
- migao 米糕
- nan-bei huo 南北貨
- Penghu Islands 澎湖群島
- "Pingtung Rainbow Bicycle Network" 屏東彩虹自行車道
- Pingtung Sports Park 屏東運動公園
- Qingshui District 清水區
- "Red Turtle Grandpa" 紅龜伯
- U-mkt 新富町文化市場
- "Under the Tree Auntie Starch Balls" 樹下阿婆粉圓
- Wanhua District 萬華區
- Wind Lion God 風獅爺
- Xinfu Market 新富市場
- Yuanshan Riverside Park 圓山河濱公園
- zongzi 粽子

# NANTOU BY BUS

Exploring the Charming Countryside of Central Taiwan

TEXT & PHOTOS | VISION

Taiwan Tour Bus  
website



Nantou County, located right in the center of the island, is home to a large number of tourist attractions. Jiji is a township to the west of popular Sun Moon Lake. It's best known for its branch railway line, a ride you can experience while on the following organized bus tour.

The **Jiji Railway and Sky Bridge (One-Day Tour)** guided bus tour, detailed on the **Taiwan Tour Bus** website ([www.taiwantourbus.com.tw](http://www.taiwantourbus.com.tw)), is a fun-packed trip that presents the traveler with intriguing scenery, history, and culture – and even a train ride!

## JJI

Jiji is Nantou County's smallest and least populated township, but it is well known around the island for two reasons, the Jiji Branch Line and the Jiji Earthquake of 1999. The devastating earthquake that rocked central Taiwan on September 21<sup>st</sup> left scars, some of which can still be seen today, including Jiji's devastated Wuchang Temple.

## JJI BRANCH LINE

In operation since 1921, the Jiji Branch Line starts at the town of Ershui in Changhua County and makes its way east through Nantou County to Checheng, the terminal station. Today the line is mostly used by tourists, many of which will buy a day ticket to be able to hop off/hop on at will and do some sightseeing around the stations. During this trip, you'll take the train between the Jiji and Checheng stations.

## SHULI SNAKE KILN

Shuili Snake Kiln ([www.snakekiln.com.tw](http://www.snakekiln.com.tw)), established in 1927, is one of Taiwan's last remaining "snake" kilns (an elongated kiln with a snakelike form). In the past, the kiln was fired up to temperatures of 1,200 degrees Celsius, with all manner of pottery produced. Visitors can actually walk through the kiln, from a side entrance all the way to its rear.

## SKY BRIDGE

After leaving the Jiji area, the tour continues with your bus making its way to the verdant heights of the low Bagua Mountain Range. There you will walk across the elegant Sky Bridge, which has a length of about 200m, is about 60m above the forest floor, and has 265 steps.

## SUNNY HILLS

Sunny Hills ([www.sunnyhills.com.tw](http://www.sunnyhills.com.tw)) is one of the premier producers of pineapple cakes, a favorite gift buy for tourists visiting Taiwan. Its Nantou branch, inside a traditional three-sided courtyard complex, has become a very popular tourist attraction, with customers often seen queuing outside. 

## Jiji Railway and Sky Bridge (One-Day Tour)

(集集鐵道風情車埕、蛇窯、天空之橋一日遊)

[www.taiwantourbus.com.tw/C/tour/en/jiji-railway-sky-bridge](http://www.taiwantourbus.com.tw/C/tour/en/jiji-railway-sky-bridge)

### ITINERARY

Central Taichung → Jiji → Jiji Branch Line → Checheng →  
Lunch → Shuili Snake Kiln → Sky Bridge → Sunny Hills →  
Nantou Tourist Factory → Central Taichung

**FEE:** NT\$1,850; including bus fare, lunch, bicycle rental at Jiji, Sky Bridge ticket, Jiji-Checheng train ticket, insurance and guide, and Shuili Snake Kiln ticket



## MARSHAL TOUR (元帥旅行社)

[www.marshaltour.com.tw](http://www.marshaltour.com.tw)

(04) 2301-5590

Rm C, 11F, No. 161, Gongyi Rd., West Dist., Taichung City  
(台中市西區公益路161號11樓C室)

## ENGLISH AND CHINESE

Bagua Mountain Range 八卦山脈

Checheng 車埕

Ershui 二水

Jiji Branch Line 集集支線

Shuili Snake Kiln 水里蛇窯

Sky Bridge 天空之橋

Sunny Hills 微熱山丘

Wuchang Temple 武昌宮

ROUND-LAKE RIDE

The route around Sun Moon Lake is one of the most scenic in Taiwan



# The Taiwan Cycling Festival

The Overseas Traveler's Healthiest Portal to Taiwan's Scenic and Cultural Beauties

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE   PHOTOS | CHEN CHENG-KUO, VISION, TAIWAN CYCLIST FEDERATION

*The Taiwan Tourism Bureau has established two special websites for those of adventurous spirit pumped up with the idea of probing this land's nooks and crannies on two self-powered wheels: taiwanon2wheels.com and taiwanbike.tw. The first provides general info on events and festivals, pre-trip planning, suggested routes, travel agencies handling cycling tours, and much else. The second is dedicated to the Taiwan Cycling Festival, a whirlwind of events spread out over the calendar, which has a wonderful combination of relaxed and thrilling events that bring you up into the high mountains and down by the pounding sea, and to countless lovely places in between. Here we present to you the Taiwan Cycling Festival.*

The annual Taiwan Cycling Festival is the creation of the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, and is built around a corps of major events, including those we will cover below – **Come!Bikeday**, the **Taiwan KOM (King of the Mountain) Challenge**, and **Light Up Taiwan** – complemented by numerous events smaller in scale. The tourism-promotion quest that lays behind the staging of the festival is very broad, yet at the same time is built on a set of laser-targeted specifics.

These promotion targets are:

The full panoply of the Taiwan cycling experience for all travelers local and from abroad looking for new, inviting travel destinations with a health-enhancement and eco-friendly angle.

The range of natural scenery that is so impressively varied

for an island of this size (plus its many offshore islands of unique personality) and the alluring man-created scenic sights.

The full and still growing network (over 4,000km) of interlinked regional and local bike-route webs and the ever more comprehensive infrastructure of rental and repair facilities.

Quality accommodations that span the full budget range wherever you bike, the superb and pleasingly affordable food, and the warmhearted friendliness and hospitality of the local people.

Sound like something in which you should be interested? We should say so.

Taiwan is now energetically promoting green tourism through the vigorous marketing of cycling tours, and the Taiwan Tourism Bureau has introduced numerous incentive packages and other promotional activities for international tourists. For more information, visit the bureau's website at [www.taiwan.net.tw](http://www.taiwan.net.tw).



Xiangshan Visitor Center



Crescent Bay



Sun Moon Lake Dam

## SUN MOON LAKE



### Come! Bikeday

This is a showcase for the exquisitely beautiful Sun Moon Lake, located in the **Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area** ([www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw](http://www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw)) in the central mountains. The elevation of the mountain-surrounded lake's surface is about 750m. The CNN Travel website has described the round-lake bike route as one of the world's top 10 "cycling routes that'll take your breath away."

Come!Bikeday happens over a weekend in late autumn, with different events satisfying the desires of competitive riders, leisure riders, and kids. The center of action is the expansive **Xiangshan Visitor Center**, located on the lake's west side. Among these is the 30km round-lake **Challenge Ride** highway jaunt, for more serious bikers. The start and finish is at the visitor center.

The non-competitive, family-oriented **Joy Ride** is 10km, and features easy grades. You start at the visitor center, head through the main lakeside village (Shuishe), and turn around just past the Zhaowu Pier to return the same way. A long part of this happy big-gathering excursion is along the popular bikeway (for walkers as well) that runs along the lake's west side. The **Push Bike** section is a competition for tots 2-6, who race their push bikes (no-pedal bikes) on a mini-course set up on the visitor center's grassy grounds.

The west-side bikeway is itself one of Sun Moon Lake's most popular attractions, and delivers you to numerous other attractions. The Xiangshan Visitor Center has an info-rich exhibit hall and a fine glass-wall café overlooking a small, quiet bay. Close to it – part of the bikeway – are the poetically lovely **Tongxin Bridge** and **Yongjie Bridge**, known as the "wedding photo bridges." The **Xiangshan Scenic Outlook** skywalk, also near the center, is reached via a branch boardwalk that seems to float through treetops, high above the aforementioned bay.

South of the center, the bikeway brings you to large, quiet **Crescent Bay**, one of the lake's quietest areas, with no powered boats allowed entry. There is a campground and SUP/kayaking center here. North is the aforementioned Shuishe Pier, busy during the day with tour boats, and a great place for people-watching, faced by a line of cafés and eateries with alfresco seating.

## HOHOCHA

HOHOCHA is the newest large-scale attraction in the Sun Moon Lake area. It is located right beside Provincial Highway 21 about 5km north of the lake, in the town of **Yuchi**. The theme here is black tea (Assam, Amber, Ruby, Amethyst). Sun Moon Lake is the center of Taiwan's black-tea production, the origins of which date back to the 1895-1945 Japanese colonial era. Assam tea was introduced during that time, and a related research station is still in operation. HOHOCHA's various facilities sit amidst an expansive hillside/hilltop tea plantation.

The best way to experience the place is through one of the regular free guided tours (Chinese). These start at the main building, a three-story Japanese-style edifice with a façade of dark-stained wood. This is a combination exhibit/retail/dining facility. Your guide explains the tea-processing operations on the main floor and introduces the building's different services (more on these in a moment). You then go into the fields for an intro to the various types of leaf and a visit to the plantation's hilltop leaf-gathering facility.

In the main building, in the 3F dining/DIY hall visitors are provided with a free tea-sampler tray, along with a delicious tea egg. Tea ceremony activities and DIY activities are held here: tea kneading, blending, sealing, etc. On the 2F is a retail center with loose-leaf tea and a wide array of tea-themed snacks for sale. A bakery provides oven-fresh tea cookies, biscuits, and other goodies. And on a 2F balcony is a stand with seating at which house-made gelatos, fine Sun Moon Lake coffee, and light food are sold. Black tea is used as a flavoring for the latter two and for numerous gelato selections. DIY pizza-making sessions with tea used as an ingredient are also held here. Stands on the 1F sell fresh-prepared tea eggs, tea *luwei* (soy-braised tasties), and tea drinks.

Note that camping facilities and outdoor group-fun activities are also offered (advance booking required).

### BLACK BEVERAGE

Sun Moon Lake is well known for the production of high-quality black tea



### HOHOCHA

☎ (049) 289-5899

📍 No. 443-36, Yuchi St., Yuchi Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County (南投縣魚池鄉魚池村魚池街443-36號)

🌐 [www.facebook.com/sunmoonblacktea](http://www.facebook.com/sunmoonblacktea)



## LAKE VIEW

If you stay in a lake-facing room of Hotel Del Lago, you can sit almost right above the lake's waters



## Hotel Del Lago

This upscale hotel is in one of the taller buildings in Shuishe, standing right beside the **Shuishe Pier** – “del lago” means “on the lake.” Its lake panorama is a treat, with the sweeping look of a 180-degree *shanshui* painting. The view embraces sights such as the Wenwu Temple on the far left, Ita Thao village straight ahead, Lalu Island on the far right, and Ci'en Pagoda between the latter two. The hotel is also a pleasure to look at from the pier or on the lake. The light-tone façade has a curving wave-like pattern that blends elegantly with the lake waves.

When enjoying a meal in the Chinese/Western buffet restaurant on the first floor, which has doors connecting directly to Shuishe Pier, bright-painted tour boats can be seen through the French-style windows. Note that the hotel's buffet breakfast is taken here, and that diners can choose to sit outside at patio umbrella tables.

The hotel has 88 rooms, roughly divided in terms of style into European postmodern minimalist – verging on Scandinavian, with pronounced blonde tones – and Japanese classic. Each has one wall of floor-to-ceiling windows that allow excellent views. Guests also much praise the spa-massage column installed in each room's shower stall.

Two other big hits with guests are the hotel's bike-rental service and paid SUP (standup paddleboarding) outings. A platoon of high-quality bicycles from Giant, the famed Taiwan brand, is lined up outside the lobby entrance. These are available to guests at minimal rates. This service is extremely popular, but visitors need not fret should no bikes be available. A large Giant rental operation in the multi-level **Shuishe Visitor Center** is near the hotel. Qualified instructors conduct the SUP outings, which happen in the early morning before the wake-creating tour boats wake up. The SUP excursions are also launched from the pier.

A final note: Be sure your room is on the hotel's lake-facing side; rooms on the inland side face Shuishe's main intersection. (Rooms start at NT\$7,000; Chinese/Western buffet breakfast included).

### HOTEL DEL LAGO (日月潭大漾閣飯店)

☎ (049) 285-6688

📍 No. 101, Zhongshan Rd., Shuishe Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County  
(南投縣魚池鄉水社村中山路 101 號)

🌐 [www.dellago.com.tw](http://www.dellago.com.tw)



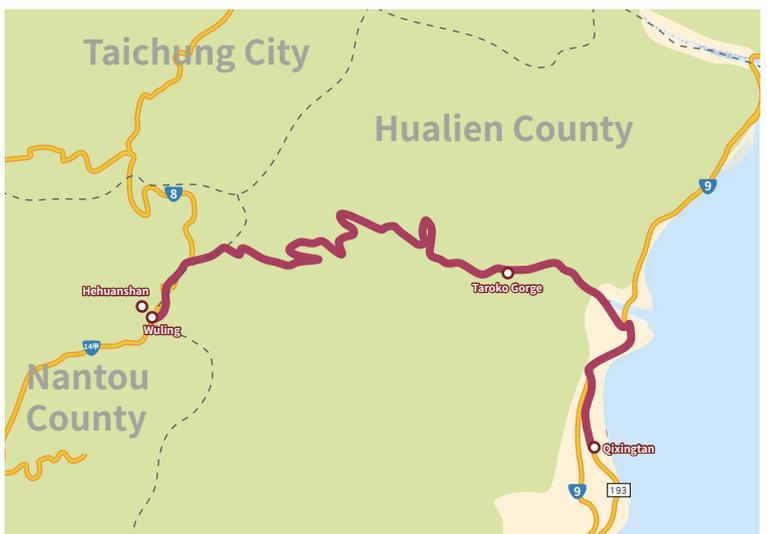
# HUALIEN-WULING

## King of the Mountain (KOM) Event

The Taiwan KOM (King of the Mountain) Challenge ([taiwankom.org](http://taiwankom.org)) is the most exciting and spirit-demanding of the Taiwan Cycling Festival events, and considered the highlight event. The first edition of the Taiwan Cycling Festival was in 2010, the first for this race in 2012. It has become one of the most prestigious and sought-after challenges on international racers' calendars. Rivaling the picturesque mountain-climb sections of the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia, the world's biggest names come each year seeking the King of the Mountain crown.

Held in late autumn, this is an international race reserved for elite riders – above 16 years of age and capable of finishing the route in 6.5hrs or less – that starts in the scenic coastal **Qixingtan** area just north of the small east coast city of Hualien and takes riders through magnificent Taroko National Park ([taroko.gov.tw](http://taroko.gov.tw)). At the park's base just inland from the coast is **Taroko Gorge**, Taiwan's greatest natural wonder, where sheer marble-laced cliffs a thousand meters high almost kiss in places. The race ends far, far uphill along the Central Cross-Island Highway at the **Wuling** pass, Taiwan's highest road point at 3,275 meters. The pass is surrounded by the **Hehuanshan** (Mt. Hehuan) peaks, all easily accessible via trails of moderate length and gradient. Riders, starting at sea level, cover 105km, with the route featuring many steep and winding sections.

There are also two “baby KOM” rides held each spring and summer for experienced riders who would like the awe-inspiring sense of achievement of tackling the KOM route but perhaps are not at the same level as the pros and elite amateurs who enter the big race: the **Road to Taiwan KOM – Spring** and **Road to Taiwan KOM – Summer**. The route is the same, but the cut-off time is extended to 9hrs from 6.5. Riders finishing within 7.5hrs automatically qualify for the autumn race.



## CHALLENGES

Among the goals for ambitious bikers in Taiwan are climbing up Wuling and visiting the island's best lighthouses on two wheels



# AROUND TAIWAN

## Light Up Taiwan

This series of rides – full name “**Light Up Taiwan 4 Poles Lighthouse Cycling Tour**” – takes you on single-day cycle outings to lighthouses at the island’s four compass points. The excursions are spread out from mid-summer to mid-autumn, allowing ample preparation time in between for those who wish to tackle all four. There are theme souvenirs for each individual ride, and an Activity Passport that after being fully stamped can be used to obtain an official memorial certificate attesting that all four lighthouses have been visited. All the rides are casual fun rides, ranging from about 20km to 40km, designed for families and other cyclists of moderate fitness interested in easy-paced exercise focused on scenic discoveries.

First up is the **East Pole – Sandiaojiao Lighthouse** tour (25km), in the Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area ([www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw](http://www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw)). You start off and end at the Fulong Visitor Center, in the beach-fun/cycling town of Fulong. The Sandiaojiao (Sandiao Cape) Lighthouse was built by the Japanese in 1935.

Second is the **West Pole – Guosheng Port Lighthouse** tour (36km), in the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area ([swcoast-nsa-travel](http://swcoast-nsa-travel)). The start and finish is at the Taiwan Salt Museum; this extremely flat region, home to many wetland areas, was once a major producer of sea salt. The Guosheng Port Lighthouse was built on a sandbar in 1957.

Third is the **South Pole – Eluanbi Lighthouse** tour (42km), in Kenting National Park ([www.ktnp.gov.tw](http://www.ktnp.gov.tw)). The start and finish is at the Eluanbi Lighthouse Square. The lighthouse, built by a British engineer for the Qing Dynasty government, went into operation in 1883.

Last is the **North Pole – Fuguijiao Lighthouse** tour (23km and 32km options), in the Guanyinshan and North Coast National Scenic Area ([www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw](http://www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw)). Start/finish for both options is at Zhongjiao Bay. The Fuguijiao (Fugui Cape) Lighthouse was first built by the Japanese in 1896; the current tower was erected in 1962.

Other complementary forays will also be offered. This year, the **West Coast Beachside Village** tour (35km) was held on the day following the West Pole tour. 

Guosheng Port Lighthouse



### ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Ci'en Pagoda 慈恩塔
- Crescent Bay 月牙灣
- Eluanbi Lighthouse 鵝鑾鼻燈塔
- Fuguijiao Lighthouse 富貴角燈塔
- Guosheng Port Lighthouse 國聖港燈塔
- Ita Thao 伊達邵
- Lalu Island 拉魯島
- Light Up Taiwan 臺灣燈塔極點慢旅
- Qixingtan 七星潭
- Sandiaojiao Lighthouse 三貂角燈塔
- Shuishhe Pier 水社碼頭
- Sun Moon Lake 日月潭
- Taiwan Cycling Festival 臺灣自行車節
- Taiwan KOM Challenge 臺灣自行車登山王挑戰
- Taiwan Salt Museum 台灣鹽博物館
- Taroko Gorge 太魯閣峽谷
- Tongxin Bridge 同心橋
- Wenwu Temple 文武廟
- Wuling 武嶺
- Xiangshan Scenic Outlook 向山眺望平台
- Xiangshan Visitor Center 向山遊客中心
- Yongjie Bridge 永結橋
- Yuchi 魚池



# Cycling in the Cities

## Taking Advantage of Public Bike Rental Systems in Taiwan

TEXT | HAN CHEUNG PHOTOS | RAY CHANG, ASKA CHI, VISION

*With a terrific combination of shared-bike systems and dedicated bikeways available in cities in its north and along its west coast, Taiwan has become an urban cyclist's paradise. Thoughtfully planned bike routes connect to public transportation hubs, green spaces, and tourist sights, opening up new possibilities for travel on the island.*

With over 2,000 automated bicycle-share stations spread across 12 municipalities and counties in Taiwan's north and along its western coast, as well as on the offshore islands of Kinmen, getting around town and launching impromptu urban-cycling adventures has never been easier.

**YouBike** ([www.youbike.com.tw](http://www.youbike.com.tw)) was launched in Taipei City's ritzy Xinyi District with just 11 stations and 500 bikes as a trial program in 2009. After a slow start, the service was expanded quickly along Taipei Metro (MRT) lines, while fares were adjusted and registration options expanded. The bikes have become immensely popular over the years, providing a green and healthy option for commuters and opening up new travel possibilities for visitors. The signature orange-and-yellow two-wheelers are now an essential element in Taipei's street scenery – though the recently launched 2.0 version bikes come in pearl-white and yellow. Available

in parts of Taipei and Kaohsiung, the upgraded YouBike 2.0 system is even more convenient, with enhanced rental options and improved vehicles as well as solar-powered stations.

YouBike took over New Taipei City's Newbike system in 2014, and expanded to Taoyuan City in 2016. Conveniently located near public transport stations as well as in commercial districts and near public spaces and popular sights, the 359 stations in Taoyuan are scattered across the expansive municipality. YouBike continued to push south afterward, reaching the cities/counties of Hsinchu, Miaoli, Taichung, and Changhua. Kaohsiung's CityBike system was replaced by YouBike in June. Expansions are planned for Yunlin and Yilan in 2021.

Tainan, Pingtung City, and Kinmen operate their own systems, **T-Bike** ([tbike.tainan.gov.tw](http://tbike.tainan.gov.tw)), **Pbike** ([pbike.pthg.gov.tw](http://pbike.pthg.gov.tw)), and **K-Bike** ([www.qbike.com.tw](http://www.qbike.com.tw)), respectively.



MathewBike

# GENERAL INFORMATION AND TIPS

Except for Pbike, which only accepts the **iPass** ([www.i-pass.com.tw](http://www.i-pass.com.tw)) card, all of Taiwan's bike-share systems accept payment by the **EasyCard** ([www.easycard.com.tw](http://www.easycard.com.tw)). Both types of card can be used for pretty much all public transport, and are available at any chain convenience store. The systems also accept credit cards for one-time rentals, but if you're staying more than a few days in Taiwan it's definitely advisable to purchase an EasyCard, as the card also serves as an electronic wallet.

The rental systems are quite similar – registration is completed at kiosks at each station, upon which the user can start renting bikes after a short wait. Online registration is also available, as well as the use of smartphone apps. Rental procedures vary slightly between systems, but mostly involve placing one's card on a reader at a dock or kiosk. YouBike 2.0 has its smart control panels located on the bikes instead of on the docks.

The YouBike app makes things even easier. Users can register cards, check their transaction history, and look up rental stations on their mobile phones. The app also conveniently indicates how many bikes and docks are available at each station, saving riders from an empty trip. Make sure you check the tires, seat, brake pressure, and lights before setting off, as these bikes see extremely high usage. You'll have to wait 15 minutes after returning one bike before taking a new one. Note that a YouBike with its seat turned backwards indicates it is broken.

The best thing about these bikes is that they are extremely affordable. Renting a YouBike costs NT\$10 per 30 minutes within the first four hours, while a Pbike is free for the first half hour. The K-Bike system is even more generous, offering bikes free of charge for the first hour.



MODERN AND OLD  
Biking in the Xinyi District, you will experience the ultra-modern and the traditional sites of Taipei

## Bike Rentals and Guided Bike Tours

If you want to go for a leisurely bike ride in Taipei City, your first choice for renting a bicycle will certainly be the **YouBike** public bike-rental system ([taipei.youbike.com.tw](http://taipei.youbike.com.tw)). If you want to go on a longer (perhaps multi-day) and/or more challenging (perhaps into the mountains/around the island) ride, you want to rent a bike that is fit for the purpose.

There are a number of excellent Taipei bike shops that will provide you with exactly the bike you need for your trip. One of these operations is **MathewBike** ([mathewbike.com](http://mathewbike.com)), a small shop located in Shilin District. From simple children's bikes to top-notch steeds for highly demanding tours, Mathew can provide every type of bike and also the accessories you'll need for your next cycle adventure. For demanding multi-day high-mountain rides, the shop can even provide support vehicles to accompany riders.

If interested in a guided bicycle tour of Taipei City (half day or full day), check out **Taipei Bike Tours/Taipei Bike Works** ([www.taipeibiketours.com](http://www.taipeibiketours.com)), which is run by two young bike enthusiasts from the US. Their tours are both very informative and much fun, your guide taking you to many interesting spots in the city that the average tourist will never see. You can also rent high-quality bikes, and if your own bike needs repair and/or customization, Taipei Bike Works is the shop you want to go.



Taipei Bike Tours/Taipei Bike Works

# NORTH TAIWAN

## Taipei/Xinyi District/Xinyi Road Bike Path

The bustling Xinyi District is where Taiwan’s shared-bike system began. Home to Taiwan’s tallest building, a huge 24-hour bookstore, and tons of trendy clubs, high-end restaurants, and fancy malls, the area is also quite bike-friendly, with cycling lanes along and between the main thoroughfares, including Ren’ai and Xinyi roads. Hop on a YouBike and explore the area to experience one of the liveliest and most fashionable parts of Taipei.

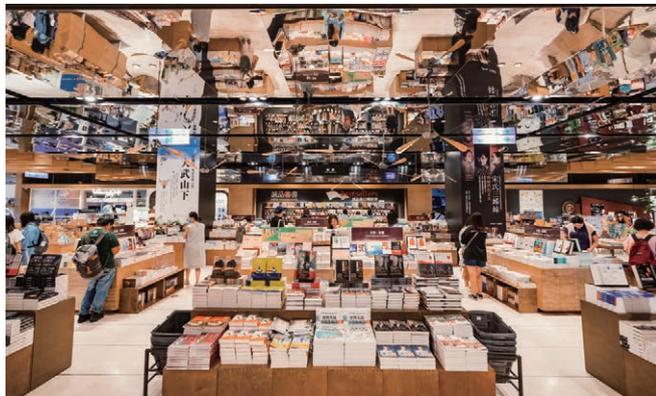
The star attraction of the area is undoubtedly the iconic **Taipei 101** tower, which at 508m was the world’s tallest building from its opening in 2004 to 2010. Today, it ranks 11th among the world’s skyscrapers. The postmodern bamboo- or pagoda-shaped glass-and-steel structure is an impressive sight from below, but wait until you ride the ultra-fast elevators that carry you to the 89th floor observatory in just 37 seconds – also a world record when it was completed. The expansive views of the sprawling metropolis and the mountains beyond are stunning, but the coolest feature is perhaps the world’s largest tuned mass damper, which stabilizes the tower against high winds and earthquakes. The spheric structure is visible from different angles from the 87th to 91st floors. Last year, the 101st floor was finally opened to the public, and if you’re brave enough you can walk outside (tethered) on the gangway surrounding the building.



Taipei 101

Just to the southwest of Taipei 101 is the **44 South Village**, a section of a former military dependents’ settlement turned cultural-creative park, featuring artsy boutiques, a local-food market famous for its bagels, performance spaces, and open-air markets. The narrow pathways between the heritage concrete buildings are a joy to wander through, and make for a stark contrast to its glamorous modern-architecture neighbors.

After **EsLite’s** ([www.eslite.com](http://www.eslite.com)) flagship Dunhua South Road store shut its doors in May after 31 years in operation, the bookstore’s 24-hour mantle passed to the Xinyi branch. Located amidst a cluster of high-end shopping malls, this multi-floor EsLite outlet also has a food court, coffee shops, an art gallery, and a mall selling all kinds of local and/or creative designer products.



ESLITE BOOKS  
Browsing books and magazines 24h a day



## Xindian River

Riding the Xindian cycle paths is a pleasant journey (along both sides of the winding Xindian River), a major river that defines Taipei's south border. Start from the scenic area of **Bitan**, home to a wide section of the river resembling a lake. Swan-shaped pedal boats are one of the more popular features at Bitan, along with an 83-year-old suspension bridge that provides lovely views of the area and the beauty of the surrounding hills. Bitan is right beside MRT Xindian Station.

From there, it's an enjoyable ride north along the river, passing by high-rise residential areas, through verdant riverside parks, and by modernistic bridges, making for an ideal escape from the congestion and noise of the city. The floodgates dotted along the path allow cyclists to exit from the riverside route back into the concrete jungle, where YouBike stations should be readily available (there are no YouBike stations right along the riverside bike path).

The route passes by **Treasure Hill**, a one-time illegal squatters settlement that has been turned into an artist village well worth exploring, but you might want to return on a different day to spend at least an afternoon wandering the twisting alleys and visiting the myriad artist studios and shops. Nearby is the **Gongguan** night market and commercial district, the **Museum of Drinking Water**, and the **Gongguan Waterfront Plaza**, where you can take a break at an outdoor shipping-container bar and eatery area.

The flower fields at the **Zhongzheng Riverside Park** and **Guting Riverside Park** are great for selfies, and further north one can explore the historic **Wanhua District**, which feels like it's trapped in time,

bursting with old buildings, shops, and markets, plus atmospheric heritage temples. There's so much packed in this area that it also warrants a separate visit (read article on page 10 for more about the area).

The path technically ends at the **Huajiang Bridge**, but if you have time and stamina you can continue and follow the Tamsui River north all the way to the popular portside getaway of **Tamsui** on the north coast, or you can cross the bridge and head southwest along the **Dahan River**. The path on the north side of the river will take you to the charming pottery town of **Yingge**. If you stay on the south side you'll first follow the Dahan, then the Sanxia River, with the path ending in central **Sanxia**. This town is famous for its ornate Zushi Temple and its picturesque Old Street, renowned among other things for its tasty bull-horn bread, shaped like croissants.

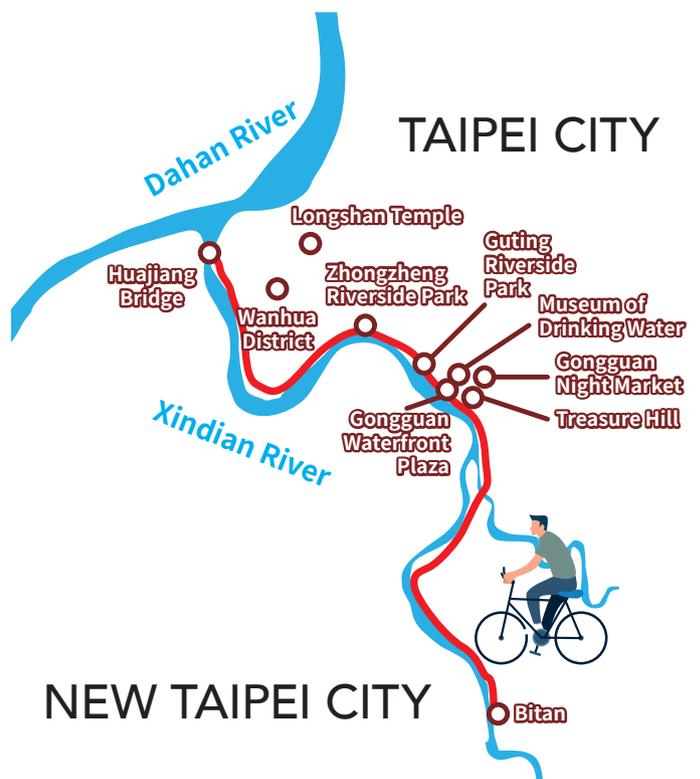


Gongguan Waterfront Plaza



TREASURE HILL

An artist village well worth exploring



# WEST COAST CITIES

## Taichung / Taichung Art Boulevard

Grab a YouBike in front of the **National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts** ([www.ntmofa.gov.tw](http://www.ntmofa.gov.tw)) in Taichung and head down the **Art Museum Parkway**, a refreshing green corridor in the middle of the city lined with restaurants, galleries, bookstores, and boutiques. The brick path winding through the middle of the parkway takes pedestrians and cyclists past a series of large-scale public artworks. At night the atmospheric street lighting gives the place a calming, romantic ambience, and during the weekend it bustles with cultural-arts activities such as street performances and concerts.

After returning your bike, wind down at one of the parkway's many eateries offering global dining options, which range from Taiwanese and Taiwanese indigenous cuisine to Greek, Indian, French, and Thai. Of course, don't forget to check out the art museum itself, which is one of the largest of its kind in Asia. It boasts an outdoor sculpture garden and features mostly modern and contemporary pieces by Taiwanese artists, although it also hosts special exhibitions by overseas talent.

You can continue cycling on to the adjacent **Calligraphy Greenway** and beyond, all the way to the **National Museum of Natural Science** ([www.nmns.edu.tw](http://www.nmns.edu.tw)) with plenty of sights to keep you busy along the way.



**OLD CAPITAL**  
There is much to discover in Tainan, including old temples and old streets



Biking close to the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts



## Tainan / Meili Park Bikeway

Explore the heart of Tainan on the 11.9km **Meili Park Bikeway**, a loop that circles most of the major sights in the urban core not far from the train station. T-Bike stations are dotted across the area, and if you're arriving by train and want to start your trek right away, there's one right outside the station building. The loop passes through several large green spaces, including the city's oldest and largest park, **Tainan Park**, which was built in 1917. Just north of the train station, this is a great place to relax and enjoy nature as well as explore historical relics as well as Chinese-style stone bridges and pavilions.

You'll pass by the heritage-rich **Shennong Street**, which is bursting with creativity with artists and designers opening shop in refurbished 100-year-old houses. Grab a bite or some coffee here, soak up the atmosphere, and maybe plan to return for a drink later at one of the funky bars. The 88-year-old **Hayashi Department Store** ([www.hayashi.com.tw](http://www.hayashi.com.tw)) is worth a brief stop before visiting the nearby **Confucius Temple**, which was built in 1666 and was the first of its kind in Taiwan. The complex contains over a dozen buildings, including the school known as Taiwan's First Academy. A short walk away is the **Koxinga Shrine**, which is dedicated to the Ming Dynasty loyalist who expelled the Dutch from Taiwan in 1662.

## TAINAN CITY



## Kaohsiung / The Star of Qianzhen Bikeway

The **Star of Qianzhen** bike bridge is not only one of the best places to watch the Kaohsiung skyline at night; the curvy, organically-designed structure itself becomes a stunning illuminated sculpture that's magical to ride through. The bridge connects three major bike paths, and also connects to Kaohsiung's light rail system as well as to a KMRT station, where YouBikes are available for rent.

From the bridge, follow Kaisyuan Road southwest to reach the **Dream Mall** ([www.dream-mall.com.tw](http://www.dream-mall.com.tw)), the largest shopping mall in Taiwan and home to the 102.5m-tall **Eye of Kaohsiung** Ferris wheel, which provides panoramic views of the city and ocean. From here, you can get on the 6km-long **West Harbor Line Bike Path**, which heads toward **The Pier-2 Art Center** and other attractions.

Head northeast and you'll arrive at the **Kaisyuan and Jinzuan night markets**, which combine to make the largest night market in Taiwan. There are over 1,000 stalls to choose from – try not to get overwhelmed!

Finally, follow the Qianzhen Canal southeast and you'll come to the **Taroko Park** ([www.tarokopark.com.tw](http://www.tarokopark.com.tw)), a mall and a fun-filled theme park featuring F1 race car-style go-carts on a 600m track, a bowling alley, minigolf, sports facilities, an innovative kids play area, and way more. It's impossible to get bored here, as there's something for everyone. 📍



The Star of Qianzhen Bikeway

### ENGLISH AND CHINESE

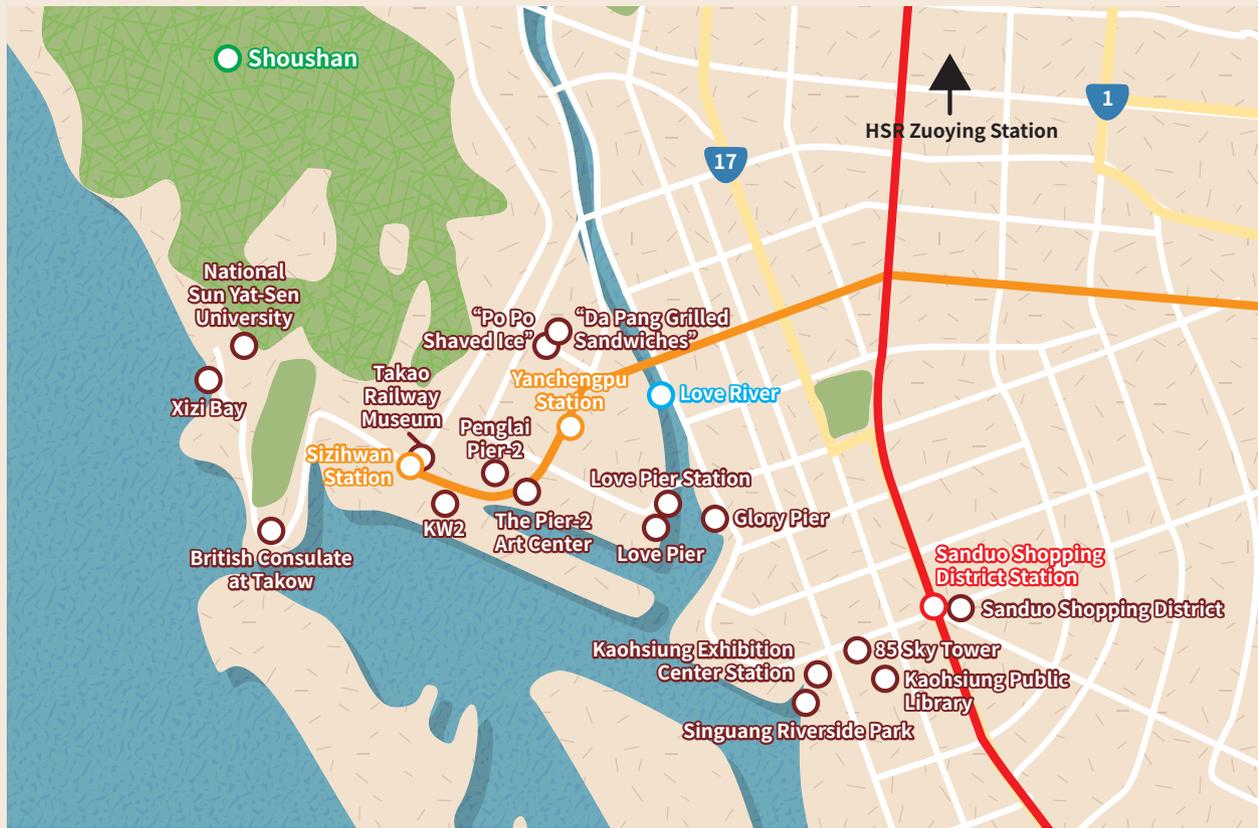
44 South Village 四四南村	Museum of Drinking Water 自來水博物館
Art Museum Parkway 美術園道	Sanxia River 三峽河
Bitan 碧潭	Shennong Street 神農街
Bull-horn bread 牛角麵包	Taichung Art Boulevard 台中美術綠園道
Dahan River 大漢溪	The Star of Qianzhen Bikeway 前鎮之星自行車道
Gongguan (Waterfront Plaza) 公館(水岸廣場)	Treasure Hill 寶藏巖
Guting Riverside Park 古亭河濱公園	Xindian River 新店溪
Hayashi Department Store 林百貨	Zhongzheng Riverside Park 中正河濱公園
Huajiang Bridge 華江橋	
Koxinga Shrine 延平郡王祠	
Meili Park Bikeway 美麗公園自行車道	



# TOURING KAOHSIUNG

A Quick Look at Some of the Harbor City's Best Attractions

- Start**
- Zuoying**
- MRT 25min.**
- Sizihwan/Hamase** 3hrs
- MRT 2min.**
- Yancheng/Penglai Pier-2** 2hrs
- MRT 4min.**
- Love Pier/Glory Pier** 1hr
- MRT 6min.**
- Kaohsiung Exhibition Center** 1hr
- Walk 15min.**
- Sanduo Shopping District** 2hrs



TEXT & PHOTOS | VISION

*Taiwan's third-largest city, Kaohsiung is best known for its harbor, the island's largest. Because of this busy facility, the city's urban core for a long time had a predominantly industrial and blue-collar character. But times have changed, and Kaohsiung has today become a tourist magnet with many exciting sightseeing attractions on offer.*

If you intend to rely on public transport when visiting Kaohsiung, note that the city's Taiwan High Speed Rail station is located in the Zuoying District, a few kilometers north of the urban center, while the conventional-railway station is smack in the heart of downtown. Both stations give you easy access to the metro system, the KMRT (Kaohsiung Metro; [www.krtc.com.tw](http://www.krtc.com.tw)), which has two lines (Red and Orange), and which in turn is connected to the LRT (Light Rail System, one line). Many of the city's tourist attractions can be conveniently reached by taking the trains of these two systems.

## SIZIHWAN/HAMASEN STATIONS

Taking the Orange Line of the KMRT to its western terminus, Sizihwan Station, or the LRT to Hamasen Station, brings you close to a number of places of interest, including the **Takao Railway Museum** ([trm.tw](http://trm.tw)), **The British Consulate at Takow** ([britishconsulate.khcc.gov.tw](http://britishconsulate.khcc.gov.tw)), **National Sun Yat-Sen University** ([www.nsysu.edu.tw](http://www.nsysu.edu.tw)), and **Xizi Bay** (Sizihwan). The last is a popular spot for watching the sun set over the Taiwan Strait. There is a small dark-sand beach here; when facing the sea, you will see the northern entrance to Kaohsiung Harbor to the left and Shoushan (Longevity Mountain) to the right.

## YANCHENGPU/PENGLAI PIER-2 STATIONS

Take the KMRT to Yanchengpu Station or the LRT to Penglai Pier-2 Station and you are just a short walk away from a cluster of old harborside warehouses that have been transformed into spaces for art exhibitions and characterful shops and restaurants. On the grounds of **The Pier-2 Art Center** ([pier2.org](http://pier2.org)) you will see many interesting installation artworks, and many of the warehouses have large murals, perfect for taking pictures.

Right by the harbor is **KW2**, a warehouse that has been transformed into a modern shopping and dining space, with vendors selling designer items and eateries serving yummy dishes.

The Yancheng District is an old Kaohsiung neighborhood known for its delicious **snack foods**. Walk the lanes and alleys north of Yanchengpu Station and you'll come across many of the locals' favorite eateries, including "**Da Pang Grilled Sandwiches**" and "**Po Po Shaved Ice**."



### ENGLISH AND CHINESE

85 Sky Tower 85 大樓  
British Consulate at Takow 打狗英國領事館  
"Da Pang Grilled Sandwiches" 大胖碳烤三明治  
Kaohsiung Exhibition Center 高雄展覽館  
Kaohsiung Public Library 高雄市立圖書館總館  
KW2 棧貳庫  
Love Pier 真愛碼頭  
Love River 愛河

National Sun Yat-sen University 中山大學  
"Po Po Shaved Ice" 婆婆冰  
Sanduo Shopping District 三多商圈  
Sizihwan (Xizi Bay) 西子灣  
Takao Railway Museum 舊打狗驛故事館  
The Pier-2 Art Center 駁二藝術特區  
Yancheng District 鹽埕區



## LOVE PIER STATION/GLORY PIER STATION

Between these two LRT stations, trains pass a bridge crossing the **Love River**, close to where the river merges with the waters of the harbor. You can walk across the same bridge and take in the views of the river, which are especially enchanting in the evening when the bridges across the waterway are colorfully illuminated. The **Love Pier**, to the south of the bridge, is dominated by a decorative structure featuring two large sails, a popular place to take pictures.

## SANDUO SHOPPING DISTRICT/KAOHSIUNG EXHIBITION CENTER STATIONS

To see the ultra-modern side of Kaohsiung, take the LRT to Kaohsiung Exhibition Center Station. Between the station and the exhibition center is the spacious **Singuang Riverside Park**, a great place for taking photographs, especially with the **85 Sky Tower** as backdrop. The tower is one of the landmarks of the city, and the best destination for eagle-eye views over the whole city (there is an observatory on floors 74/75). Another modern, and green, building in the area is the **Kaohsiung Public Library** ([www.ksml.edu.tw](http://www.ksml.edu.tw)), a place to sit down and relax in a stylishly designed space.

Just a few blocks northeast is Kaohsiung's well-known **Sanduo Shopping District** (KMRT Sanduo Shopping District Station), home to a number of large department stores, arguably your best bet in the city for going on a shopping spree. 📍

The modern second building  
of the Tainan Art Museum



# Rich Culture New Aesthetics

**There Has Never Been a Better Time to Visit Tainan**

TEXT | STEVEN CROOK   PHOTOS | ASKA CHI, VISION

*Tainan is a city with an essence that never seems to change, yet somehow gets better and better. Taiwan's political and economic capital for more than 200 years, until 1885, it's rightly regarded as a bastion of traditional culture. In its heart, the density of shrines and sites of historic importance is nothing short of astonishing. But there's much more to Tainan than preservation of the past. In recent years a strong hipster aesthetic has taken root. Artists and entrepreneurs have repurposed all kinds of old buildings as galleries, homestays, and cafés. For those who like to wander side streets and back alleys, it's one of Asia's most rewarding destinations.*



There's a good reason why *Travel in Taiwan* keeps coming back to Tainan. In fact, there are several. For a start, it's rightly said that you cannot hope to understand Taiwan unless you spend some time in the former capital. Tainan's long history has given it a rich culture and a degree of self-confidence that Taipei, the current capital, can't quite equal.

Like many old cities, roads in the core tend to be narrow, so using buses, the local bike-sharing scheme, and your legs to get around is strongly recommended. Possibly because so many of them have spent their lives residing in high-density low-rise neighborhoods, Tainan folks are exceptionally friendly.

Compared to Taipei, less English is spoken in Tainan, but this is changing fast. Not only is an influx of internationally-minded young people reinvigorating the old heart of the city, but the local government has declared English to be the second official language. In this sense, for those coming from afar, there's never been a better time to explore Tainan – and the food, as it always has been, is superb.

For Taiwanese visitors and tourists from other parts of Asia, Tainan's "little eats" (*xiao chi*) have long been a key attraction. Now, thanks to global media interest and reports in various languages, Tainan's street food has become far more accessible to all international travelers, even if you can't read a single Chinese character. Come, see, and eat!



## PLACES TO VISIT

### Tainan Art Museum Building 2

Few projects embody the city's effortless melding of old and new better than the Tainan Art Museum. The museum's Building 1 is an Art Deco-influenced former police station that dates from the period of Japanese colonial rule. Building 2, by contrast, is a striking purpose-built structure. It's been variously likened to a mockup for a base on Mars and to a ziggurat.

The four galleries on the first floor of Building 2 are devoted to works that exemplify or were inspired by Taiwan's traditional religious arts. Of course, in Tainan you needn't go far to find places of worship which overflow with breathtaking paintings and woodcarvings. But here, in

addition to modern twists on ancient themes, there are unusual items that will delight aficionados of temple art. Where else, for instance, can you pore over preliminary sketches drawn by Pan Li-shui, the most famous temple painter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

Among the exhibits upstairs is a hall given over to four key Taiwanese artists, among them Chen Cheng-po. There's also a resource center with hundreds of art books and periodicals, not to mention good views over the Tainan Judicial Museum on the south side of Fuqian Road.

*Standard admission to the museum is NT\$100; the same ticket can be used for Building 1 and Building 2.*



#### TAINAN ART MUSEUM BUILDING 2

(台南市立美術館二館)

☎ (06) 221-8881

📍 No. 1, Sec. 2, Zhongyi Rd., Central West District, Tainan City  
(台南市中西區忠義路二段 1 號)

🌐 [www.tnam.museum](http://www.tnam.museum) (Chinese)



### The Spring

And from the ruins arose ... an empty space? When the authorities decided to demolish Tainan Chinatown, a mall built in the early 1980s, they engaged Dutch architects MVRDV to bring more greenery into the heart of the city and turn the site into a plaza with a difference. Taking advantage of what used to be the mall's basement, the design team created 1.54ha of public space below street level. Road traffic is thus out of sight, and mostly out of earshot.

A selection of the old building's beams and columns have been left in place. Between these whitewashed remnants, an undulating roughcast surface has been laid. The height differences aren't there purely for aesthetic reasons, but calculated so water accumulates into a miniature lagoon complete with tree-studded islets. The pool is shallow and kept sparkling clean so that youngsters can safely splash around. When the sun is strong, the most popular section of The Spring is that directly below Jinhua Road. During the warmer months people flock here after dark.

The Spring is open from 9am to 9:30pm Wednesday to Monday; admission and use of the on-site changing rooms is free. Like all sizable modern and modernized attractions in Taiwan, it has barrier-free facilities as well as conventional restrooms.

#### THE SPRING (河樂廣場)

📍 At the intersection of Sec. 3, Jinhua Road and Zhongzheng Road

🌐 [www.facebook.com/TheSpring.Tainan/](https://www.facebook.com/TheSpring.Tainan/)

The Spring is a new park designed by Dutch architects

## PLACES TO **EAT**

### Qing Shui Tang

Qing Shui Tang's refreshing *aiyu*-based desserts have won island-wide fame, so expect to queue before you can sit down. If this is your only chance to try *aiyu* jelly – it's almost never seen outside Taiwan – it's certainly worth the wait, especially if you want to sample some of this chain eatery's unique innovations.

But first, what exactly is *aiyu*? A pear-sized fig that grows in Taiwan's mid-elevation mountains, it's picked by indigenous villagers, then dried. After soaking, the seeds are squeezed through a straining bag. The pectin thus released turns into a jelly with a mild yet pleasant taste.

Most *aiyu* vendors do little more than add a dash of honey and a few slices of lime. But at Qing Shui Tang they're much more ambitious, serving extravagant combinations of *aiyu* with boba, matcha, mango, strawberries, and/or taro paste. For an extra layer of gustatory experience, say yes when the staff ask if you'd like a trickle of soda or beer poured into the mix.



*Aiyu* jelly paired with fresh fruit and tapioca balls

**QING SHUI TANG (清水堂)**  
 ☎ 0976-554-730  
 📍 No. 305, Zhongzheng Rd., Central West District, Tainan City (台南市中西區中正路 305 號)



### Warm Food

Congee (thick, nourishing soup made with rice) is a common breakfast food in Taiwan, but few people make it quite so well as Warm Food's young and commendably hardworking owner/chef.

From 7:30am to 10:30am, Monday to Saturday, he's here, a stone's throw from the Taiwan Fu City God Temple, serving comforting bowls of congee to a stream of eat-in and take-out customers. Later, in the same small space he sells rice-based lunches and dinners under a different business name, Oh My Hut.

At Warm Food, Monday means cabbage congee. On Tuesday and Friday, the key ingredient is taro. On Wednesday, he cooks up daikon congee. For seasonal vegetables, you should come on Thursday or Saturday. This writer dropped by one Friday and was most impressed by the savory, satisfying combination of taro and rice, flavored with pepper, tiny strips of pork, slivers of squid, and sliced mushroom. A big bowl will keep you going until lunchtime.



Check the day of the week before ordering congee at Warm Food



**WARM FOOD (一碗小粥)**  
 ☎ 0985-516-927  
 📍 No. 79, Wanchang St., Central West District, Tainan City (台南市中西區萬昌街 79 號)



Ubuntu doesn't overwhelm visitors with printed words

#### UBUNTU BOOKSTORE (烏邦書店)

☎ (06) 222-6919

📍 2F, No. 27, Ln. 129, Huanhe St., Central West District, Tainan City  
(台南市中西區環河街 129 巷 27 號 2 樓)

## BOOKS & COFFEE

### Ubuntu Bookstore

Between the early 17<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Tainan's growth was driven by maritime trade. Vessels loaded rice, sugar, and other commodities at docks alongside the “five channels” that reached deep into the city center. Over time these waterways became choked with silt. To provide drainage, the Tainan Canal was excavated during the period of Japanese rule.

Thanks to government investment, the streets that abut the canal have become much more attractive in recent times. Ubuntu Bookstore, located above an art gallery, is in one such desirable neighborhood.

Unlike some bookshops, Ubuntu doesn't overwhelm visitors with printed words. Rather, it presents a carefully curated selection of Chinese-language books, the vast majority being nonfiction. The travel, photography, history, and wellness shelves are particularly well-stocked; there are also some children's books.

If you don't read Chinese, there's still one good reason to come here. Almost half of the floor space is set aside for those who like to pair books with coffee. Prices for the coffees, teas, and other hot beverages, craft beers, and desserts are much the same as in other coffee shops, but the view – over the canal and the Yunhexingzuan Park on the far bank – is well above par.



## PLACES TO STAY

### UIJ Hotel & Hostel

One of the most stylish recent additions to the city's skyline, the UIJ Hotel & Hostel is a multistory inn that offers several types of accommodation. Tourists can book bunk beds in mixed or women-only dormitories, or one of the 87 guestrooms. Among the latter is a top-notch 52 square meter suite, which faces the Tainan Art Museum Building 2.

Rather than draw too obviously on motifs and materials that everyone associates with Tainan, the hotel's designers have had the confidence to avoid gimmicks and go for a modern yet warm look. Inside the dormitories, you'll see undressed red-brick walls, partitions made of unvarnished wood, and canvas privacy curtains. Guestrooms feature unobtrusive fittings and dark-wood floors.

The UIJ has received exceptional reviews from guests, and not just because it's ultra-convenient if you plan to visit the Hayashi Department Store, Tainan Confucius Temple, and other key attractions. Those who've stayed here praise its cleanliness, the quality of the complimentary breakfast, and the staff's willingness to help.

Also much liked is the third-floor indoor/outdoor common area. Here, guests can make a hot beverage, or – and this often happens in the street-food mecca that is Tainan – enjoy the delicious snacks they've carried back from a night market, without the odor lingering in their bedchamber. When so much thought and effort has been put into getting the rooms just right, you wouldn't want to do anything that makes your experience less than perfect, would you?

#### UIJ HOTEL & HOSTEL (友愛街旅館)

☎ (06) 221-8188

📍 No. 5, Ln. 115, You'ai St., Central West District, Tainan City (台南市中西區友愛街 115 巷 5 號)

🌐 [uij.com.tw](http://uij.com.tw)



UIJ Hotel & Hostel's designers had the confidence to avoid gimmicks and go for a modern yet warm look





## Light Hostel

No mystery surrounds the popularity of the Light Hostel's Tainan branch. It offers clean and comfortable, yet attractively-priced, sleeping quarters at a central location.

Backpackers on a budget can book beds in the six-person dormitories. For those who seek greater privacy or like to sleep in, there are rooms with one or two double beds. Each room has its own toilet and shower, and all options include a simple gratis breakfast of toast, jam, fruit, and hot drinks.

The first floor is a communal area where

guests can kick back on one of the sofas or fix themselves a snack in the kitchen. That said, if you stayed here it's hard to imagine you'd opt to hang out much, given how many attractions lie within a 10-minute walk. In one direction, there's The Spring; in another, the Tainan Art Museum Building 2. You'd also be near the Guohua Street foodie paradise, and within strolling distance of stops where you can board the No. 2 bus to visit the historic Anping Old Fort area. **T**

Light Hostel offers clean and comfortable sleeping quarters at a central location



### LIGHT HOSTEL (承億青旅)

☎ (06) 224-0555

📍 No. 20, Ln. 309, You'ai St., Central West District, Tainan City (台南市中西區友愛街 309 巷 20 號)

🌐 [www.lighthostel.com](http://www.lighthostel.com)

### ENGLISH AND CHINESE

aiyu 愛玉

Chen Cheng-po 陳澄波

Confucius Temple 台南孔子廟

"five channels" 五條港

Fuqian Road 府前路

Guohua Street 國華街

Hayashi Department Store 林百貨

Jinhua Road 金華路

Pan Li-shui 潘麗水

Tainan Canal 台南運河

Tainan Chinatown 臺南中國城

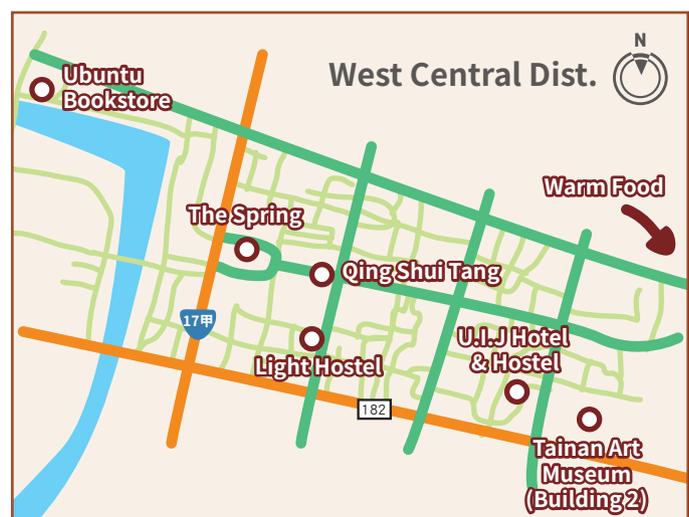
Tainan Judicial Museum 司法博物館

Taiwan Fu City God Temple 台灣府城隍廟

The Spring 河樂廣場

xiao chi 小吃

Yunhexingzuan Park 運河星鑽公園



*Yilan County, with its emerald paddy fields spread out over a vast plain between tall mountains and the Pacific Ocean, is a must-visit destination in northeast Taiwan. Jiaoxi Township, located in the north of the county, is especially attractive. Best known for its odorless hot springs, the township also has a more adventurous side for travelers to enjoy. The hike up Mt. Sanjiaolun, following the Marian Hiking Trail, has become extremely popular in recent years. The mountain's southwest slope, covered in silvergrass and arrow bamboo, has the color of Japanese powder tea (matcha), which is the reason why the mountain has become known simply as Matcha Mountain in Taiwan.*

One of Taiwan's better-known hot-spring destinations, Jiaoxi, is now attracting countless visitors with its combination of pristine environment and several fine options for hiking outings. Apart from Mt. Sanjiaolun, there are also the Wufengqi Scenic Area, Linmei Shipan Trail, and Paoma Historic Trail.

Hiking in Jiaoxi's mountains can be easily combined with relaxing hot-spring baths at a quality hotel, and since getting there from central Taipei is convenient, the area is perfect for one-day trips from the capital.

The hike up Matcha Mountain rewards you with incredible scenery, and also has an interesting religious component. With a unique Catholic church at the start of the hike and a "Christian" hut below the peak of Mt. Sanjiaolun, hiking the trail has become somewhat of a pilgrimage for hikers of faith.

The **Marian Hut** was built in 1977 by an Italian monk, Br. Luigi Pavanat, who worked for 20 years in Yilan's Camillian Saint Mary's Hospital Luodong and was in love with Taiwan's mountains. In 1980, a group of hikers met bad weather on a hike to Mt. Sanjiaolun, and took shelter in the hut. Five of the hikers decided to descend the mountain in the dark. On the way down they saw the image of a woman in a long white robe, which they regarded as being an apparition of the Virgin Mary. The church at the start of the hike, known as the **Catholic Sanctuary of Our Lady of Wufengqi**, was built years later close to the location of the apparition.

GREEN TEA SLOPES

Hikers are rewarded with enchanting mountain scenery after completing the strenuous Marian Hiking Trail



# Matcha M

A Popular Hike in Yilan's Jiaoxi Township

## PREPARATION

The Marian Hiking Trail is suitable for most hikers with moderate fitness, but that doesn't mean it isn't strenuous. While beautiful photos on the mountain are almost guaranteed, be prepared to sacrifice a large amount of sweat to get there (especially during the hot summer months).

It takes about five hours to get from the car park in the Wufengqi Waterfall area to the Marian Hut. Just above the hut is a platform with a statue of Jesus on the cross from where you have the best views. The easy-to-follow route has a total length of 5.6km. It consists of a long easy-grade gravel path, a steep-step section through forest, and a dirt path section up along arrow bamboo slopes.

Bring a lot of water when it's hot, as the only refill option along the trail is a mountain stream. Yilan's weather can be quite unpredictable, and it's often wet in the mountains. Be sure to pack a hat, sunscreen, a light rain jacket, snacks, and some sturdy shoes! Also, since Mt. Sanjiaolun is often covered in clouds, do your best to pick a clear-sky day; otherwise you might not be able to see the big vistas once you have reached the top.

# Mountain



## THE HIKE

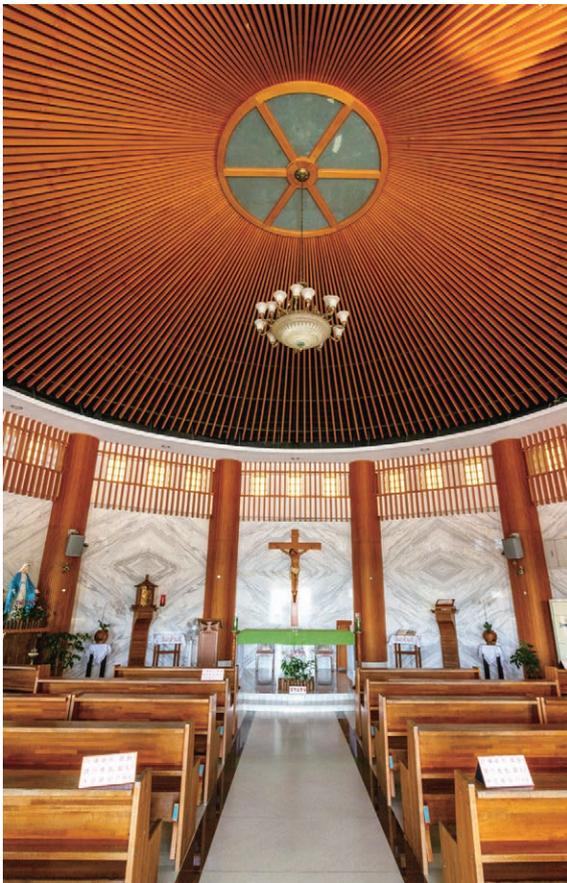
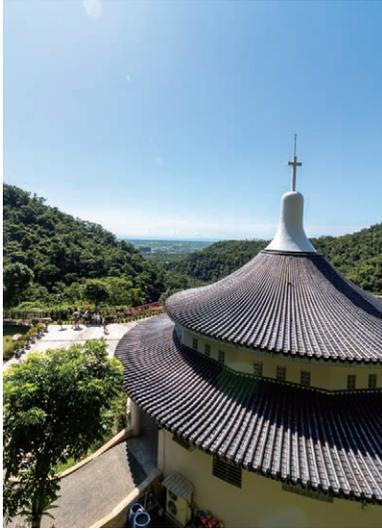


The hike begins at the Wufengqi Scenic Area car park. You can first walk up to the three-tier **Wufengqi Waterfall** (look for the signposted stairs on the right side of the main path), or you can follow the winding paved road uphill straight ahead. A path connects the waterfall area with this road just below the Catholic church. At the church you want to look down to the Lanyang Plain to get a first taste of what you will later see from much higher up. You can take a look inside the beautiful round church and view a statue of the Virgin Mary in a man-made cave beside the building.

After this, follow the steep road behind the church, which soon becomes a gravel path that brings you to the proper trailhead at the **Tongtian Bridge**. The trail first follows a mountain stream through lush forest. During hot weather many hikers will opt to sit by the stream, soaking their feet in the cooling water.

Meandering through the luxuriant forest, the well-maintained path takes you past rich vegetation. It's a steep climb, with a change in elevation of about 400m. While for the first kilometer or so you can enjoy the tree shade, the higher up you go the more the forest opens up. Along the last few hundred meters before reaching the Marian Hut you'll be surrounded by arrow bamboo, which blankets the mountainside, and you'll be rewarded with breathtaking unobstructed views of the Lanyang Plain when looking back.





#### RELIGION AND HISTORY

Make sure to learn about the touching story of Italian monk, Br. Luigi Pavanat when hiking up Matcha Mountain

Just above the Marian Hut lies the main attraction on this hike, the rolling matcha-like slopes of **Mt. Sanjiaolun**, covered in arrow bamboo and silvergrass. When the silvergrass sways in the wind, this becomes an even more mesmerizing landscape. The hut itself is a welcome shelter during unfavorable weather, a place with running water, toilets, and even benches to lie down on.

A short distance above the hut is the viewing platform at the end of the trail, reached by climbing a set of steep steps. The large Jesus on the cross statue stands in the center of the platform, from where you can enjoy stunning 360 degree views of the surrounding verdant mountains, the Lanyang Plain, and the Pacific Ocean in the far distance.

For those who want an extended and more strenuous hike, another trail section continues further up to the peak of Mt. Sanjiaolun. Add at least another hour to your hike if this is the path you choose.

*Tip: Take your time hiking down the staired sections to preserve your knees! If you choose to hike on a hot summer day, make sure to relax in the stream for a bit to cool off.*

#### TRAIL-SIDE REFRESHMENT

Cold stream water right by the trail is the perfect remedy for hot feet after the long hike

## AFTER THE HIKE

The town of Jiaoxi offers two outdoor free-entry hot-spring parks. The **Tangweigou Hot Spring Park** is located on Jiaoxi Road, just a short walk from the town's railway station. The **Jiaoxi Hot Spring Park** is adjacent to the Jiaoxi bus station. There are hot-spring pools in both parks allowing you to dip your feet in comfortably warm water.

The Tangweigou Hot Spring Park has a hot-spring creek running right through it. Surrounding the park's foot-bath pool area are various food stalls with a variety of options, including one of Yilan's most popular specialty items: green scallion pancakes! To go along with the food stalls, take a walk around and find a handful of craft beer vendors selling locally brewed beer.

In the surrounding area, for a small fee you can also dip your feet in one of the popular "fish spas," where tiny fish will nibble at your feet, eating the dead skin. It tickles, but doesn't hurt, and is quite the unique experience to tell your friends and family about!



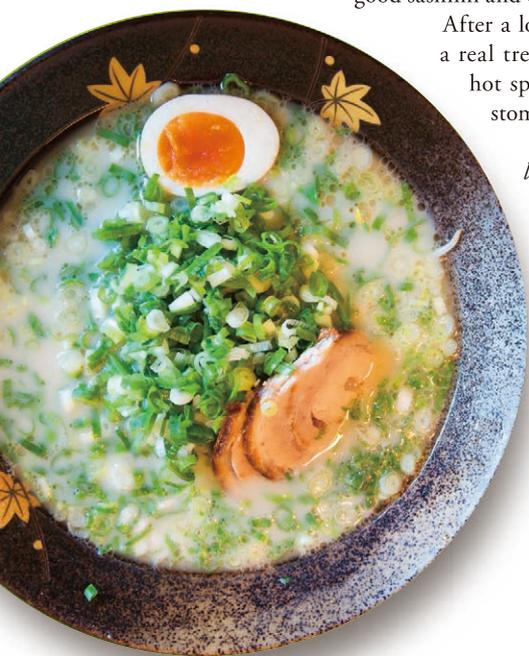
**HOT-SPRING PLEASURES**  
Jiaoxi is a well-known hot-spring town with parks offering free foot bath pools

## RAKUZAN RAMEN RESTAURANT

One of the most unique dining experiences in Taiwan is to be had in Jiaoxi. Combine eating ramen with a hot-spring foot bath! At the Rakuzan Ramen Restaurant, near the Jiaoxi Hot Spring Park, you can choose to sit outside and enjoy a nice hot-spring foot soak while eating delicious ramen paired with Japanese beer. What might seem like a gimmicky restaurant at first glance actually is a fine establishment offering a great menu with mouthwatering ramen, Japanese-style fried-pork dishes, as well as an array of good sashimi and other seafood options.

After a long day of walking in the Jiaoxi mountains, it is a real treat to feel the natural healing effects of mineral hot springs on your feet and legs while indulging the stomach with tasty food and beers.

*Note: There are two Rakuzan Ramen Restaurant locations in Jiaoxi. Only the branch near the Jiaoxi Hot Spring Park offers the foot bath experience. 📍*



### 📍 ENGLISH AND CHINESE

Catholic Sanctuary of Our Lady of Wufengqi  
五峰旗聖母朝聖地  
Jiaoxi Hot Spring Park 礁溪溫泉公園  
Lanyang Plain 蘭陽平原  
Linmei Shipan Trail 林美石磐步道  
Marian Hiking Trail 聖母登山步道  
Marian Hut 聖母山莊  
Matcha Mountain 抹茶山  
Mt. Sanjiaolun 三角崙山  
Paoma Historic Trail 跑馬古道  
Pinglin 坪林  
Tangweigou Hot Spring Park 湯圍溝溫泉公園  
Tongtian Bridge 通天橋  
Wufengqi Scenic Area 五峰旗風景區  
Wufengqi Waterfall 五峰旗瀑布

### RAKUZAN RAMEN RESTAURANT (樂山溫泉拉麵)

☎️ (03) 988-8637

📍 No. 20, Gongyuan Rd., Jiaoxi Township,  
Yilan County  
(宜蘭縣礁溪鄉公園路 20 號)

🌐 [www.facebook.com/  
LeShanWenQuanLaMianErDian/](http://www.facebook.com/LeShanWenQuanLaMianErDian/)

# HOTEL INFORMATION

Visitors to Taiwan have a wide range of choice when it comes to accommodation. From five-star luxury hotels that meet the highest international standards, to affordable business hotels, to hot-spring and beach resort hotels, to privately-run homestays located in the countryside there is a place to stay that satisfies every traveler's needs. What all hotels of Taiwan — small and big, expensive and affordable — have in common is that service and hospitality are always of the highest standards. The room rates in the following list have been checked for each hotel, but are subject to change without notice. Room rates at the hotels apply.

## THE GRAND HOTEL Taipei 台北



**NO. OF ROOMS:** 500 (Suites: 57)  
**ROOM RATES:**  
 Single/DBL NT\$ 8,800-15,800  
 Suite NT\$ 22,000-36,000  
 (All rates are subject to 10% service charge.)

**DESK PERSONNEL SPEAK:**  
 English, French, Spanish, and Japanese

**RESTAURANTS:**  
 Western, Cantonese, Northern China Style Dumplings, tea house, coffee shop, steak house

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**  
 Grand Ballroom, conference rooms for 399 people, 10 breakout rooms, business center, fitness center, sauna, Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts, billiards

No. 1, Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 4, Taipei City  
 台北市中山北路4段1號  
 Tel: +886-2-2886-8888  
 Fax: +886-2-2885-2885

[www.grand-hotel.org](http://www.grand-hotel.org)

## TAIPEI GALA HOTEL Taipei 台北



**NO. OF ROOMS:** 160  
**ROOM RATES:**  
 Standard Single NT\$ 6,600  
 Deluxe Single NT\$ 7,200  
 Deluxe Triple NT\$ 9,800  
 Elegant Suite NT\$ 13,000

**DESK PERSONNEL SPEAK:**  
 English, Japanese, Chinese

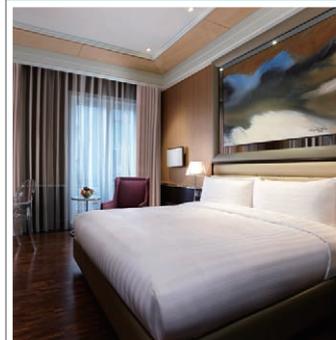
**RESTAURANTS:**  
 Golden Ear Restaurant (Western semi buffet); Golden Pot (Chinese Cuisine)

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**  
 Business center, meeting rooms, airport transfer service, parking lot, laundry service, free Internet access, LED TV, DVD player, personal safety box, mini bar, private bathroom with separate shower & bath tub, hair dryer

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**NO. OF ROOMS:** 60  
**ROOM RATES:**  
 NT\$12,500-NT\$38,000

**DESK PERSONNEL SPEAK:**  
 Japanese, English, Chinese

**FACILITIES:**  
 Eclat Lounge, mechanical parking space, meeting rooms

**AWARDS:**  
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 2019 Michelin Guide Preferred Hotel  
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[www.eclathotels.com](http://www.eclathotels.com)

-  Taipei City Tour NT\$1,300  
台北市區觀光
-  Wulai Aboriginal Village Tour NT\$1,500  
烏來高砂族部落觀光
-  Taipei Night Tour NT\$1,500  
臺北夜景觀光
-  Northern Coast Tour NT\$1,200  
基隆港、野柳、北海岸公園觀光
-  Folk Arts Tour (Sanxia & Yingge) NT\$1,300  
民俗藝術觀光 (三峽、鶯歌)
-  Yangmingshan National Park & Hot-Spring Tour NT\$1,500  
陽明山國家公園及溫泉觀光
-  Jiufen Village & Northeast Coast Tour NT\$1,300  
九份、東北角海岸觀光

-  Pingxi Sky Lantern Experience & Old Street Walk NT\$1,500  
平溪天燈體驗、老街漫步
-  "Thousand Island Lake" & Pinglin Tea Plantation NT\$1,500  
千島湖、坪林自然美景 茶飄香
-  1-Day Taroko (Marble) Gorge Tour NT\$4,200  
花蓮太魯閣 (大理石) 峽谷觀光
-  2-Day Sun Moon Lake, Puli & Lukang Tour (Stay at Sun Moon Lake) NT\$6,600  
2天1夜 日月潭、埔裡鎮、及鹿港觀光 (住日月潭)
-  2-Day QingJing & Fruit Picking Tour (Stay at QingJing) NT\$6,900  
2天1夜 南投清境 世外桃源採果趣 (住清境)
-  3-Day Tour to Sun Moon Lake & Alishan NT\$12,500  
3天2夜 日月潭、阿里山觀光

-  3-Day Southern Taiwan Tour NT\$14,500  
(Tainan, Kaohsiung, Kenting)  
(Taiwan High-Speed Rail – Bullet Train Ride)  
三天二夜 台南・高雄・墾丁深度之旅 (含台灣高鐵體驗)
-  4-Day Central & Southern Taiwan Tour NT\$14,000  
(Sun Moon Lake, Kaohsiung, Kenting)  
四天三夜 台灣中南部觀光 (日月潭、高雄、墾丁)
-  4-Day Eastern Taiwan Tour NT\$15,500  
(Yilan, Hualien, Taitung)  
(Taiwan Railway Train Ride)  
四天三夜 海岸、縱谷豐富之旅 (宜蘭、花蓮、台東) (含臺灣鐵路體驗)
-  5-Day Round Taiwan Island Excursion NT\$16,900  
(All hotels are 5-star hotels)  
五天四夜 台灣環島巴士之旅 (全程五星級旅館)



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