

Travel in

TAIWAN

2022
JUL & AUG

No. 112

EXPERT TALK

DIVE INSTRUCTOR AND UNDERWATER
PHOTOGRAPHER SU HUAI

GOOD FOOD

RESTAURANTS SERVING
SOYBEAN-BASED DISHES

Central Taiwan

Along the Jiji Line in Nantou
Quiet Sanyi Township in Miaoli
Taichung City's Coastal Districts

LOCAL STAY

STAYING CLOSE TO
SUN MOON LAKE



TAIWAN EVERYTHING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRAVELING IN TAIWAN!



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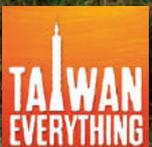
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Welcome to Taiwan!



Publisher's Note

Dear Traveler,

Welcome to the Taiwan high summer! In this issue our main area of geographical concentration is the island's west-central region, spending time as well in the island's far north and south. And to help you beat the high heat, we take you to the cooling mountains, to the breezy coast and even into the sea, and introduce an array of favorite summertime cooling treats such as traditional tofu pudding and soy milk as well as unique local-flavor ice creams, popsicles, and fruit-based drinks.

Our featured destination is the **Nantou** towns and villages along the Jiji Line, a famed tourist railway that brings you from the central plains through a verdant low-mountain valley to the base of the soaring central mountains. You'll also spend time at lovely Sun Moon Lake, one of Taiwan's signature tourist attractions, in the higher mountains very close to the Jiji Line's eastern terminus; we also introduce some of this region's best places to overnight at and close to the lake.

It's off to the city's quiet coastal districts in our **Taichung** file, which are separated from the city's bustling downtown by a high, long ridge. Our destinations are cultural: a key Taiwan religious center, important heritage and archeological sites, and a woodcarving factory turned teahouse restaurant. A slight shift to the north comes in our **Miaoli** article, with time spent in two township that are bastions of traditional Taiwan Hakka culture, introduced here with explorations of Taiwan's woodcarving capital, an old mountain railway line, a tourist tea factory, a massive young Hakka-theme museum, and other intriguing attractions.

This issue, time in our **Good Food** file is spent in the far north of Taiwan, in the capital. Our destinations: Taipei eateries serving soybean-based foods. Among the many treats, traditional and newfangled, that you'll be sampling are soy milk, tofu pudding starring Taiwan's delectable fruits, and inventive vegan fare and "dairy bar-style" drinks and edibles.

And we're off to the far south in **Expert Talk**, talking to the dive instructor/underwater photographer co-founder of Islander Divers on tourist-busy Xiao Liuqiu island, whose eco-focused mission is "bringing ocean and people closer together."

Enjoy your time in Taiwan, the coolest of travel destinations!

ON THE COVER



Shuil Snake Kiln
(photo by Chen Cheng-kuo)

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Chang Shi Chung

Travel in TAIWAN

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IN TAIWAN

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EXPERT TALK / DIVING

SU HUAI AND ISLANDER DIVERS

Bringing Ocean and People
Closer Together



HOT SUMMER FUN

Exciting Events
and Happenings



1 TAITUNG COUNTY UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TAIWAN EAST COAST LAND ARTS FESTIVAL & MOONLIGHT SEA CONCERTS

東海岸大地藝術節暨月光·海音樂會

This festival combines the beauty of Taiwan's East Coast region with the beauty of outdoor installation art and music. Each year, the organizer invites artists from Taiwan and abroad to create installation artworks that blend nicely with the natural environment of the East Coast National Scenic Area. A central element of the festival is the romantic Moonlight Sea Concert series, featuring well-known musicians from around Taiwan. As the concerts are timed to coincide with days around the full moon, spectators can (weather permitting) see the moonrise and the moonlight reflection on the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Moonlight Sea Concert shows in 2022: July 14/15, Aug. 13/14, Sept. 10/11/12.

www.teclandart.tw (official website);

www.eastcoast-nsa.gov.tw (East Coast NSA)

2 TAIPEI CITY AUGUST 5-8

TAIWAN CULINARY EXHIBITION

台灣美食展

Since its first edition three decades ago, the annual Taiwan Culinary Exhibition, held at the Taipei World Trade Center, has presented food lovers with the best of local cuisine. The event has grown significantly over the years, as has the scope of the food-related themes featured along with the number of exhibitors and visitors. In 2019, the last year the exhibition took place (cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic), almost 140,000 visitors attended. Among the topics covered, besides local cuisine, were international cuisine, kitchenware and utensils, locally sourced produce and ingredients, culinary arts, food-centered travel and souvenirs, and culinary education.

www.tcetva.tw (official website)

3 KEELUNG CITY JULY ~ AUGUST

KEELUNG MID-SUMMER GHOST FESTIVAL

雞籠中元祭

This event, lasting a full month, is one of Taiwan's major festivals. It takes place during the 7th lunar month (July 29–Aug. 26 in 2022), in Taiwan referred to as "Ghost Month." According to folk belief, at this time of year the gates separating the realms of the living and the dead open and ghosts return to wander the earth. In order to appease these wandering souls, lavish offerings are made in front of temples in Keelung and a plethora of rituals and ceremonies is celebrated. Among the numerous highlights of the festival are the Door-Opening Ceremony at Laodagong Temple on Day 1 and the Water Lantern Parade and Releasing of Water Lantern on Day 14 of the lunar month.

tour.klcc.gov.tw (Keelung Travel)

4 KAOHSIUNG CITY AUGUST 5~14

CREATIVE EXPO TAIWAN

臺灣文化創意設計博覽會

Since the Creative Expo Taiwan was first held in 2010, it has experienced exponential growth in the number of exhibitors, participating countries, and visitors, becoming one of Asia's largest cultural and creative expos. Each year, the expo challenges the public and the cultural/creative community to stretch their imaginations and explore Taiwan's culture. Activities include cross-disciplinary seminars and topic-based conferences. Design and branding are also discussed, as participants work to promote and broaden Taiwan's cultural and creative soft power. This year, for the first time, the expo will be held in Kaohsiung City's brand-new Kaohsiung Music Center.

creativexpo.tw (official website);

kpmc.com.tw (Kaohsiung Music Center)

5 NANTOU COUNTY SEPTEMBER 4

SUN MOON LAKE INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

日月潭國際萬人泳渡

Sun Moon Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Taiwan, and one of the island's best-known tourist destinations. Swimming in the lake is prohibited, but there is one major exception, the annual Sun Moon Lake Swimming Carnival. This swimming event was organized for the first time in 1981, with just 540 swimmers crossing the lake. In 2020, its 38th edition, a total of 21,800 swimmers took to the water to complete the 3km swim from Zhaowu Wharf on the northern shore of the lake to Ita Thao Wharf on its southeast side. Because of the global pandemic, the swim, which is not a competition but a relaxed affair with a party atmosphere, did not take place last year.

www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw (Sun Moon Lake NSA);

www.pulifourswim.tw (Puli Four-season Swimming Ass.)

6 YILAN COUNTY SEPTEMBER 17

TAIWANIA ULTRA TRAIL

台灣棲蘭林道越野

This sporting event takes long-distance runners through the pristine forest along the usually off-limits Qilan Forestry Road in Yilan County. An official International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) event promoted by the government, it features runs over three distances (25, 50, and 100km) with top finishers receiving scores for the International Trail Running Association (ITRA) rankings. At an altitude of above 2,000 meters and with unpredictable weather (high chance of rain), it is regarded as a highly challenging competition. If you are not a long-distance runner, note that visiting part of the Qilan forest area (Divine Trees Garden) is possible via guided tours offered by the Lealea Makaay Ecological Park.

www.ctau.org.tw (Taipei Chinese Association of Ultrarunners),
makaay.lealeahotel.com (Lealea Makaay Ecological Park)



台灣美食展
 Taiwan Culinary Exhibition
 台北世貿一館 TWTC Hall I
 08.05 - 08
2022



Photo by Chen He-lu



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 Time for Celebration
 TAIWAN TOURISM EVENTS



Taiwan Tourism Events Calendar Website

Matsu Autumn Festivals

Small-Scale Events with Lots of Local Charm

TEXT | VISION PHOTOS | MATSU NSA ADM., LIENCHANG COUNTY GOVT.

Located very close to the coast of mainland China, but governed from Taiwan, the Matsu archipelago is a fascinating place to visit. The main islands, Nangan, Beigan, Dongyin, and Juguang, are all quite small in size. The largest, Nangan, has a land area of less than 11 square kilometers and a population of about 4,000.

Tourists visiting Matsu are primarily drawn by its military history, its charming old villages of granite stone houses, its rugged landscape, and the distinctive local cuisine. Being somewhat isolated, Matsu is a place of unique traditions, customs, and practices. A great time to learn more about the locals' way of life is late September/early October, when three fascinating annual cultural events take place in quick succession. Because of the small number of residents and tourists, it's possible to get up very close to the action, take intimate photos, and engage with the welcoming people of the island.

The first of these three celebrations is the **Tieban Tower Burning Festival**. It takes place at Jinbanjing Tianhou Temple in the village of Tieban close to the southernmost point of Nangan Island. The festival originated in mainland China's nearby Fuzhou area, and is part of the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival revelry. Activities during the day (including a small parade through the village) lead up to the highlight of the event, a grand fire in a small makeshift brick tower on the beach close to the village. The symbolic meaning of this burning spectacle is "getting rid of the old, inviting in the new."

The second autumn event is known as "**Niujiao Coming of Age Ceremony**." Niujiao is a village in the northeast of Nangan known for its fiery-red-walled Niufengjing Wuling Temple, which is the main venue for the ceremony. The event is a coming-of-age-ritual for 16-year-old islanders, during which Lady Linshui, the Goddess of Birth and Fertility, and other deities are thanked for protecting children during their upbringing. The participating teens undergo a series of age-old rituals at the temple before being symbolically released into early adulthood.



The third event, **Mazu Ascension Day**, is all about celebrating Mazu, the Goddess of the Sea, beloved by millions in Taiwan and southeast coastal China. According to legend, the body of Mazu was washed upon the shore of Nangan after saving members of her family during a typhoon. Nangan Tianhou Temple, on the west coast of the island, contains her sarcophagus. The temple is the venue for the Mazu Ascension Day events, held to celebrate the deity's ascension to heaven. Part of the festivities is an elaborate ceremony with traditional artistic performances and an evening prayer gathering for safety and good fortune.

For more about the islands of Matsu, visit www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw (Matsu National Scenic Area)

ENGLISH AND CHINESE

Beigan 北竿
 Dongyin 東引
 Jinbanjing Tianhou Temple 金板境天后宮
 Juguang 莒光
 Matsu 馬祖
 Mazu Ascension Day 媽祖昇天祭
 Nangan 南竿
 Nangan Tianhou Temple 南竿天后宮
 Niufengjing Wuling Temple 牛峰境五靈公廟
 "Niujiao Coming of Age Ceremony" 牛角做出幼
 Tieban 鐵板
 Tieban Tower Burning Festival 鐵板燒塔節



HAPPENING

in TAIWAN Now



With the end of the pandemic in sight, countries around the world are opening up for travel again. Let's hope that tourists will soon be returning to Taiwan in great number. Domestic travel has been thriving over the past two years, tourist facilities and sights have been well maintained, and new attractions have been added. So, many reasons to come!

1 Jojozoo Park

Bird lovers rejoice! There is a brand-new zoo in Nantou County with a focus on birds. In fact, it's the largest bird-focused zoo in Asia, with dozens of rare birds kept. The zoo has numerous aviaries and outdoor areas where visitors can get up close to a wide variety of birds, including large species such as ostrich, crane, and flamingo. Among the most popular birds are the brightly colored Scarlet Ibis, Western Crowned Pigeon, and Vulturine Guineafowl. Apart from the bird area, there is also Dinosaur Hill, featuring large dinosaur sculptures.

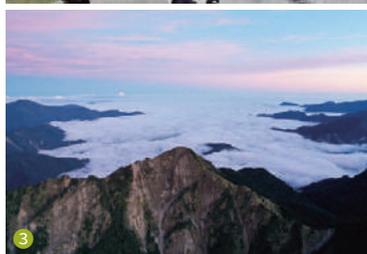
www.facebook.com/jojozooPark



2 Buddha Square

One of the top tourist attractions in Changhua City is the Mt. Bagua Great Buddha Scenic Area. With a height of 22 meters and a shoulder width of 4 meters, the Great Buddha statue is a sight to behold. The park also rewards visitors with great views of the city below. On the way up to the statue you will pass Guashan Village, a building complex opened last year to give 18 artists and artisans a place for creative work. Earlier this year, in addition, nine youth-oriented shops and eateries were opened on its first level, collectively named Buddha Square, giving young visitors an additional reason to pay the area a visit.

www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw



Photos courtesy of local admin. units

3 Southern Cross-Island Highway

Looking at a topographic map of Taiwan, you will see a landmass somewhat resembling a tobacco leaf with a "spine" of tall north-south mountains in the middle traversing almost the entire island. There are only a few major roads, "cross-island highways," that allow the crossing of these mountains. Amazing feats of engineering, these routes are spectacularly beautiful and highly popular with self-driving tourists. One of them, the Southern Cross-Island Highway, has recently been reopened after suffering severe damage 13 years ago during Typhoon Morakot.

www.ysnp.gov.tw

4 Wannian Gorge

Yunlin County in central Taiwan is better known for its coastal and agricultural lands than its mountainous areas. It is, however, home to a very unique sight in its far southeastern sector. Wannian Gorge is a ravine beautifully sculpted by the Naihu River. Surrounded by tall mountains, it is surprisingly easy to access by car (10-min. walk from car park). The gorge is about one kilometer in length, two to five building stories deep. The recent addition of a skywalk trail has made access to and viewing of this scenic attraction more convenient and safe.

tour.yunlin.gov.tw

Culture

Concerts, Theater, Exhibitions,
Festivals, Shows



Exhibition

Lumière – The Enlightenment and Self-awakening Of Taiwanese Culture

光—臺灣文化的啟蒙與自覺

Until September 18
Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts (Kaohsiung City)

This exhibition, held at the Museum of National Taipei University of Education earlier this year, focuses on an important period of Taiwanese culture, the 1920s. While under the rule of the Japanese colonial government, the local intelligentsia desired and pushed for more freedom of cultural and artistic expression, resulting in the founding of the Taiwan Cultural Association. This period has been described as a time of intellectual enrichment, emancipation of minds, and artistic and cultural enlightenment, sprouting new artistic concepts in paintings, sculptures, novels, plays, and films. The exhibition displays representative artworks from the 1920s through the 1940s, accompanied by historical documents to give proper context.

kmfa.gov.tw



Musical

The Lion King

獅子王

July 13~August 7
National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts,
Weiwuying (Kaohsiung City)

More than 100 million people worldwide have seen this show already (including Taipei audiences in 2019 and this June), but if you are not one of them or you liked it so much that you want to see it again, head to Kaohsiung this summer! The musical is an adaptation of the Disney animated musical drama film of the same name released in 1994, remade in 2019. The story is about a young lion in Africa named Simba who is fighting his wicked uncle, named Scar, preventing him from usurping his father's throne.

www.npac-weiwuying.org



Exhibition

Toiletpaper: The Studio

義大利怪美殿堂特展

Toiletpaper is an Italian picture-based magazine first published in 2010 by artist Maurizio Cattelan and photographer Pierpaolo Ferrari. This exhibition is a recreation of the magazine's quirky and colorful headquarters in Milan, described as a "temple of anti-minimalism" with a design that does not take itself too seriously. *Toiletpaper's* art feels spontaneous, exotic, and easy-going, the magazine's content a seemingly random collection of bizarre high-saturation images. Among the recurring elements in the headquarters interior-design wonderland are colorful snakes, hands holding lipsticks, and a mouth with red lips and the word "shit" written on white teeth.

www.huashan1914.com;
www.toiletpapermagazine.org

Until September 18
Huashan 1914 Creative Park
(Taipei City)



Festival

Art Revolution Taipei

台北新藝術博覽會

August 5~8
Taipei World Trade Center
(Taipei City)

Held annually since 2011, Art Revolution Taipei is an important art fair in Taiwan that brings together international and local artists. This year, 330 artists from 60 countries will present more than 3,000 works of art encompassing a wide range of styles, including some of the world's most eye-catching NFT (Non-Fungible Token) crypto art. This is the first exhibit on this trending digital art form to be staged in Taiwan. What distinguishes this fair from other art shows is that the focus is firmly on the artists, not on galleries and art dealers, giving visitors a great chance to interact directly with creators.

www.arts.org.tw



Exhibition

Uncoverings – The Search For Identity In Lithuanian Photography

揭幕：尋探立陶宛攝影中的認同

September 8–November 13
National Center of Photography and Images
(Taipei City)

For a long period during the last century, Lithuania, one of the three Baltic States in northeastern Europe, was ruled by one of two rivaling powers, Germany and Russia. Becoming part of the Soviet Union in 1944, the country was the first Soviet-occupied state to regain independence in 1990. This exhibition presents works by photographers from the Cold War period and the 30-plus years since independence, showing how photography has progressed in the course of its history and how the Lithuanian identity has been expressed in photographs.

ncpi.ntmofa.gov.tw



Exhibition

Tadao Ando: Endeavors

挑戰—安藤忠雄展

Until September 13
Songshan Cultural and Creative Park
(Taipei City)

Self-taught Japanese architect Tadao Ando is one of the most acclaimed contemporary architects in the world. Winner of the prestigious Pritzker Prize in 1995, his work has been described as “primarily in reinforced concrete, defines spaces in unique new ways that allow constantly changing patterns of light and wind in all his structures, from homes and apartment complexes to places of worship, public museums and commercial shopping centers.” This exhibition presents 300 models, sketches, and drawings spanning half a century of the architect's endeavors, giving visitors deep insight into his approach creating iconic buildings.

www.songshanculturalpark.org



Slow Living and Traveling

Visiting Places Along the Jiji Tourist Railway Line

The bright-painted trains of the short Jiji Line are like buses on a convenient local route delivering tourists and locals between old settlements along the Zhuoshui River, from the edge of the western plains to the foot of the mighty central mountains. Let's go on a hop on/hop off ride sampling some of the many tourist attractions.

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE

PHOTOS | CHEN CHENG-KUO, VISION

The lines of Taiwan's first-rate railway system form a network that circumnavigates the island along its outside. There are also a number of short branch lines that reach inland. Originally built for such industrial purposes as timber and mining resource extraction, today these are tourist lines.

The **Jiji Line** runs 29.7km from the western plains through foothills to the base of the central mountains along the Zhuoshui River, between the towns of Ershui and Checheng*, the latter located below famed Sun Moon Lake. It was built by the Japanese colonial government in the 1920s to transport materials for Taiwan's first great hydroelectric-dam construction project at Sun Moon Lake/Checheng, and soon opened for passenger traffic. Today's air-conditioned trains (some of them colorfully painted) slide along past compact farm plots and thick green forest, with stops at quaint stations in a number of towns/villages. We here visit some of the main settlements and tourist enticements the railway delivers you to.

*Because of landslide damage to the tracks, trains are currently not operating between Jiji and Checheng. This stretch of the line is expected to be reopened in 2023.

Jiji Green Tunnel



Checheng

Let's start at the line's eastern terminus, the village of Checheng, and work our way back out of the hills. Checheng's railway history dates to 1911, when a push-trolley railway was built to transport sugarcane from the fertile Puli Basins, north of Sun Moon Lake. Then came, as aforementioned, the grand 1920s Japanese hydroelectric/railway project. After this an economic lull, then in 1959 selection as base by a major logging enterprise for the processing of timber brought down from the central mountains. This era ended in the 1980s. Today the town bristles with photogenic wood-built heritage structures.

Checheng's biggest draw – be sure to also visit the impressive/massive just-beyond-town hydroelectric facilities – is the sprawling open-facade **Checheng Wood Museum**, in the old timber mill, which has displays with good English on Checheng's past, different types of wood, and local flora and fauna. DIY wood-handicrafts sessions are also held, and there is a wide range of food and gift-shop facilities. The shops sell both practical-use and artful wood-handicraft products and regional agriproducts.



Old crane structure

END OF THE LINE

Checheng, the terminal station on the Jiji Line, is a small village with lots of history close to Sun Moon Lake

Highlights from among the display are life-sized mockups of workers handling the huge timber cuttings and explanation of the difficult and daring forestry road cut from Checheng deep into the central mountains – at over 80km, Taiwan’s longest.

The small-lake-sized **Timber Storage Pond**, right beside the museum complex, was created to store timber logs. Logs stored in water release resins faster, thus augmenting preservation; logs stacked on land slowly dry out, presenting a fire hazard; and water storage prevents dry-splitting and spoiling of the timber for milling.

Today the pond is a graceful boardwalk-rimmed body of water teeming with fish rather than timber treasure. Among the various pond-side photo opps are large wooden structures that once housed heavy cranes utilized to move timber to/from the storage pond, lifting up to 13 tons at a go.

The **Cedar Tea House** is a spacious restaurant with high exposed ceiling in a large, long

cedar-constructed building stretched out beside the tree-shaded pond-side boardwalk. Large windows let the calming pond view and dappled sunlight stream in.

The extensive menu (which has English) features both Chinese and Western foods. The most popular choice is the takeaway *Wooden Bucket Bento Meal*, which is also served in-house with bucket optional. It’s said such lunchbox buckets were used in the past both by railway workers and for rail-station sales to travelers. You get to keep your logo-stamped bucket as a souvenir. Takeaway entrée options: smoked chicken, grilled mackerel, *dongpo* pork (soy-braised pork belly), vegetarian (pumpkin/mushroom). Additional in-house options: stewed beef, pork cutlet, mushroom with noodles (no rice).

Other menu options include afternoon tea, waffles, pizzas, and a wide range of teas/coffees/fruit-based beverages. Showcased with the beverages are elite Taiwan teas and seasonal Taiwan fruits.

Half of the poetically charming **Steam** teahouse is built right out



Wooden bucket bento meal

over the timber storage pond. It looks strikingly different from the village’s other logging-era wood-built structures, built in traditional Japanese country cottage style. This was originally the materials management office and reception center for buyers, most from overseas, who were entertained with tea while selecting from the pond’s high-grade timber for milling. The “Steam” name refers to the morning mists over pond and surrounding mountain forest.

There are three types of dining area: inside, Japanese-style sections with low tables and floor cushions and a café-style section with small table/chair sets, and outside, a large partially covered deck with picnic-style tables/benches. A menu with English is available. From *Light Meals*, recommended is the *Braised Beef Noodles* and *Smoked Chicken and Bacon Spaghetti*; from *Tea Snacks*, the *Green Bean Paste Cakes*, *Brown Sugar Cookies*, and *Macaron Cookies*. A wide range of hot/cold drinks is also available.



Steam teahouse



CHECHENG WOOD MUSEUM (車埕木業展示館)

- ☎ (049) 287-1791
- 📍 No. 110-2, Minquan Lane, Checheng Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County (南投縣水里鄉車埕村民權巷 110-2 號)
- 🕒 9:30am-5pm (weekends and holidays until 5:30pm)
- 🌐 www.facebook.com/woodmuseum

CEDAR TEA HOUSE (木茶房)

- ☎ (049) 277-2873
- 📍 No. 105, Minquan Lane, Checheng Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County (南投縣水里鄉車埕村民權巷 105 號)
- 🕒 10am-6pm (weekends and holidays until 7pm)
- 🌐 www.facebook.com/CedarTeaHouse

STEAM (隱茶)

- ☎ (049) 277-6471
- 📍 No. 101-3, Minquan Lane, Checheng Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County (南投縣水里鄉車埕村民權巷 101-3 號)
- 🕒 10am-5pm (weekends and holidays until 6pm; closed on Tuesday)
- 🌐 www.facebook.com/steam.grove

Shuili

The town of Shuili is immediately southwest of Checheng, just a few minutes away by motor vehicle. The heritage **Shuili Snake Kiln**, a big rambling complex, sits up on a dense-forest hillside beside Provincial Highway 16 just southeast of town. Nantou County was once a thriving ceramics-producing center, crafting products such as roof tiles, myriad household items, and large ceramic vessels for aging liquor. The local water was pure and the clay ideal, and the thick forest cover made the needed kiln-firing wood plentiful and inexpensive.

The site's facilities include the original kiln and a museum area, multimedia exhibition room, boutique, and breezy open-front coffee shop. Intimate contact with ceramics technique comes in the pottery demonstration area, DIY pottery classrooms, and *Wish Pottery* area, where you "write your wish on the pottery and your dream will come true."

Sitting slanted on a slope to move the interior heat move upward, firewood placed in the lower section, the huge brick kiln looks very much like a giant snake. A priceless historical relic, it's today only rarely fired. Copious wood is needed over 3~4 days to bring it up to and then maintain the desired 1,100 degrees Celsius. The ash created within comes to rest on the ceramic pieces, creating the inimitable wood-fired look. When not in operation you can walk through it.

Among the many intriguing site-created works on display is a water cistern that's not a water cistern. In WWII the Japanese in Taiwan realized they'd make great individualized

air-raid bunkers, buried to their lip, each fitting one soldier and crafted with a lid and interior step for easy entry/exit. They were buried on beaches in the thousands in anticipation of Allied landings. Another compelling work is an ingenious teapot invented for the nobility with the access hole at bottom, not top, preventing easy poisoning.

Not mentioned above is the newest Shuili Snake Kiln attraction, the "**Tutu Dessert Shop**," in the inner courtyard area. It's in a two-story sloped-roof, chalet-like building heavy with woods, exposed brick, and large windows. Light-wood Scandinavian-style furnishings predominate.

The shop specialty is French-style confections. These are made fresh daily, some on-site here, the others at two other shops. Especially good are their renditions of the Mont Blanc and *Bûche de Noël* (Yule Log). There's also an assortment of coffees, hot teas, and cold tea drinks available, the latter categories' fruit-flavoring options most popular.

Note that a popular "yukata experience" service is provided on the second floor.

Compact, hole-in-the-wall **Shueili Douhua** is right in Shuili town. *Douhua* is tofu/beancurd pudding, a hugely popular Taiwan snack treat. Don't let this shop's diminutive size fool you – this is THE place to go for *douhua* along the Jiji Line.

The "service counter," in classic old-time Taiwan style, is



Shuili Snake Kiln



Tutu Dessert Shop



Shaved-ice tofu pudding



Popsicles in different flavors



a wheeled night-market-style vendor stand out front. Two types of *douhua* are served – body-cooling cold in summer, body-warming hot in winter, each with three toppings. The tofu is made fresh daily. Traditional-style shaved-ice treats (four toppings) are also sold, along with two popular variants: four toppings with cold milk.

The long-in-place, forever busy “Daguan Erping Ice Shop” is in a community of residential buildings occupied by the families of Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) worker families located on a mountainside overlooking downtown Ershui. (Nearby Checheng and the aforementioned hydroelectric facilities are on a Zhuoshui River tributary.)

As in other locations, Taipower runs this iced-desserts shop-cum-mini-factory selling fresh-made ice creams and popsicles. The façade, fittingly, is ice-cream white. Picnic tables are provided out front, and there’s a display of large hydro-plant machinery to one side.

This being fertile-farm country, the range of distinctive local flavors is appealing, including passionfruit, plum, taro, peanut, and even salty egg yolk.

SHUILI SNAKE KILN (水里蛇窯)

- ☎ (049) 277-0967
- 📍 No. 16, Huiyao Rd., Dingkan Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County
(南投縣水里鄉頂坎村回窯路 16 號)
- 🕒 8:30am~5pm (closed on Wednesdays)
- 🌐 www.snakekiln.com.tw (Chinese)
- 📘 www.facebook.com/sskshop

"TUTU DESSERT SHOP" (土土甜品店)

- ☎ (049) 277-0967
- 📍 No. 16, Huiyao Rd., Dingkan Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County
(南投縣水里鄉頂坎村回窯路 16 號)
- 🕒 10:30am~5:30pm (closed on Wednesdays)
- 📷 www.instagram.com/tutussk101

SHUEILI DOUHUA (水里豆花松)

- ☎ (049) 277-1048
- 📍 No. 232, Minzu Rd., Shuili Township, Nantou County
(南投縣水里鄉民族路 232 號)
- 🕒 8am~5:30pm
- 📘 www.facebook.com/ShueiliDouhua

"DAGUAN ERPING ICE SHOP" (大觀二坪冰)

- ☎ (049) 277-5465
- 📍 No. 41, Erping Rd., Shuili Township, Nantou County
(南投縣水里鄉二坪路 41 號)
- 🕒 9am~6pm
- 📘 www.facebook.com/takuanice
- 🌐 bit.ly/3JXflH5 (Chinese)

KILN SHAPED LIKE A SNAKE
Shuili Snake Kiln is a very attractive tourist spot, great for taking photos, learning pottery, and enjoying ice-cream and desserts

Jiji

The dramatically photogenic ruins of the original **Jiji Wuchang Temple** are on the north edge of Jiji town. On September 21, 1999 the infamous 921 Earthquake struck Taiwan, killing over 2,400. It is also referred to as the Jiji Earthquake, for the epicenter was in Jiji Township.

The temple collapsed in on itself, the imperial-yellow roof and upper section intact. Teams sent inside found that, miraculously, the main god and other gods within were unhurt, and it was said that the beards of some of the gods had even grown longer. This supernatural turn of events turned what would normally have been seen as a bad-omen phenomenon into something divinely inspiring, drawing donations from far and wide for a new temple. The copycat eponymous structure (larger and even more ornate) stands directly in front of the ruins, which have been left in place as an earthquake memorial, formally named the 921 Earthquake Museum.

Nearby is another highly unusual attraction, the **Taishun Gallery Bridge**, built a few years ago, spanning the small river that runs before the temple complex. This is the only Chinese-style gallery bridge in Taiwan, a first-rate copy of one of the unique ancient wooden arched gallery bridges found in China.

Mingxin Academy is on the eastern edge of Jiji town. Located along a quiet lane, the large compound is protected by a low red-brick wall, and entry is via a classical-style small arch portal, auspicious ceramics-artworks atop. At the center of the complex is a temple dedicated to Wenchang Dijun, the God of Culture and Literature. Students regularly stream in to pray to this god for success in major exams.

This was one of just three major academies set up in the mountainous, comparatively undeveloped Nantou County region in imperial times. Jiji was a thriving town with a vibrant cultural scene in the late Qing Dynasty, its wealth built on the camphor trade. To encourage literacy, successful local gentry-cum-merchants established the academy in 1878. Today's complex was built with donations from local leaders in 1908. Severely damaged in the 921 Earthquake, repairs were completed in 2002.

Adjoining the temple are two wings, housing offices and former classrooms, in a classic *sanheyuan* (three-sided courtyard residence) formation. On the rear wall of one wing is a wall section with interior clay bricks exposed; a Chinese/English signboard explains the traditional methods used for making bricks (clay, rice husks, short straw) and constructing walls.

A TOWN WITH HISTORY

There are numerous historic site in Jiji worth exploring, including the original Wuchang Temple, destroyed during the great Jiji Earthquake



Jiji Railway Station



Mingxin Academy



Jiji Wuchang Temple

Across the street directly in front of the aesthetically graceful cottage-style Jiji Railway Station (a replica of the original Japanese-built wood station, too severely damaged to save in the 921 Earthquake), which sports a friendly cream-colored façade, is the can't-miss “Yiyi Banana Ice Cream” shop. Large photos of the shop's three homemade treasures are prominently displayed: banana ice cream, banana muffins, and banana egg rolls. You're visiting a key Taiwan farming area, guaranteeing freshness of ingredients and, here, rich banana flavor. No preservatives are used, so if buying the egg rolls/muffins for takeaway, eat them up within 2~3 days.

"YIYI BANANA ICE CREAM" (一億香蕉冰淇淋)

- ☎ 0988-913-898, (049) 276-1018
- 📍 No. 468, Minquan Rd., Jiji Township, Nantou County
(南投縣集集镇民權路 468 號)
- 🕒 8:30am~6pm (until 7pm on weekends and holidays)
- 🌐 www.facebook.com/yiyiicecream
- 🌐 yiyi.okgo.tw (Chinese)



Banana ice cream and muffin



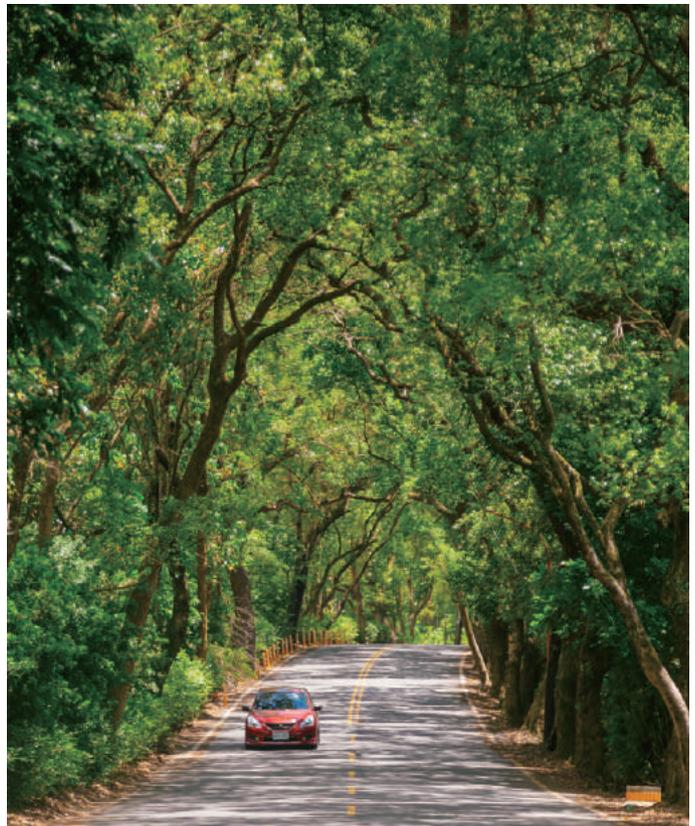
Train on the Jiji Line

Jiji, Zhuoshui, and Longquan

The **Jiji Green Tunnel** is an intensely green tree-canopied section of County Route 152 stretching 4.5km from just west of Jiji town and past tiny Longquan village to where the 152 intersects with Provincial Highway 16. The Jiji Line tracks are right beside the roadway much of this length. A number of shaded wood-built rest facilities have been built between road and tracks, all good (and safe) vantage spots to await your photo-targets when in trainspotting mode.

Bike rentals are available at government-vetted shops around Jiji Railway Station (scooters also available). Meander around the slow-living town, very bike-friendly, to the start of the Green Tunnel just beyond its western edge. Note that the Green Tunnel ride is not completely flat, and that motor-vehicle traffic picks up on weekends/holidays.

The year 1940 was the 2,600th anniversary of Japan's founding. To celebrate, Taiwan's Japanese colonial authorities ordered local residents to plant camphor trees highway-side. At that time this road was the main portal from the west into Jiji town (since supplanted by wider Provincial Highway 16, closer to the Zhuoshui River). Thereafter, each person was responsible for daily watering of the trees they had planted; discovery of failure in this duty first brought an admonition from police, then punishment.



Jiji Green Tunnel

The **Living Stone Kiln** complex sits in forest cover just south of the Jiji Green Tunnel, not far east of Longquan Railway Station. This tourist attraction was opened 24 years ago by a wonderfully congenial couple from the city of Taichung, trained in the ceramic arts, the two looking for the right place to spend their retirement years. After much searching they found this oasis in the woods, then a betel-nut plantation, and after clearing the land they built their simple farmhouse-style kiln complex and planted the new trees and bamboo that nowadays tower above the spacious grounds.

Inside are a large display area and workshop area. Outside is a “health park” area and BBQ area. There’s also a beverage counter outside the workshop entrance, with outdoor shade-umbrella seating provided.

The works of the Living Stone artist team – mother, father, daughter, son – are on display inside and outside. Especially eye-catching are the many works of high whimsy, such as junkyard-parts robots and an oversized human palm with Chinese opera masks for fingertips, opera underway in the cupped palm.

Various master-led DIY sessions are offered (individuals & parent-child teams), making easy items such as cups/mugs and plates or more ambitious items such as dinosaurs for kids.

Happy Corner Café is right beside the Green Tunnel, just a few hundred meters from its western end. Directly across the 152 is a long, thin wood-built lookout platform right beside the railway



Pottery DIY class



Hand with Chinese opera masks



Happy Corner Café



Ice-cream waffle and fruit tea

tracks of the Jiji Line. Great train views are also enjoyed while seated at the café’s elegant forecourt table/chair sets.

A delicious assemblage of sweet and savory things is prepared by the friendly proprietor, a retired teacher from Taichung who came here for a healthier living environment. The afternoon tea is especially popular. From the sweet side, try the cheesecake with black-goji-berry-flavored top layer, panna cotta with whipped cream, waffles with ice & whipped cream, and local fresh-fruit Assam tea.

LIVING STONE KILN (活石窯陶藝園區)

- ☎ (049) 278-1445
- 📍 No. 3-21, Caoling Lane, Jiji Township, Nantou County (南投縣集集鎮草嶺巷 3-21 號)
- 🕒 9am~5pm
- 🌐 www.facebook.com/livingstonekiln

HAPPY CORNER CAFÉ (快樂角咖啡)

- ☎ (049) 273-8027
- 📍 No. 268, Mokeng Lane, Zhuoshui Village, Mingjian Township, Nantou County (南投縣名間鄉濁水村磨坑巷 268 號)
- 🕒 11am~8pm (from 9am on weekends and holidays; closed on Tuesday)
- 🌐 bit.ly/3LwkFqq
- 🌐 happycorner.mmweb.tw (Chinese)

Ershui & Yuanquan

On the County Route 152 approach to the town of Ershui is the farming village of Changhe. Leading into it, the 152 curves in a long, broad arc. Parallel to this is the Jiji Line, doing the same. And tucked tightly in between is the shaded, paved footpath, which stretches about a half-kilometer.

The elements of this setting create a multi-layered tableau that is nigh pastoral-perfect for pic-snapping enthusiasts, making this one of the hottest Jiji Line photo spots: pink/white blossoms of the young trees in front, next the approaching pastel-painted trains in ultra-revealing curvaceous pose, immediately behind neat-grid farm plots of guava trees, paddy rice, and tall palms, and beyond a backdrop line of low mountains.

The Pink Shower Tree, native to Southeast Asia, has become a popular ornamental tree in Taiwan in recent times, used as a cherry tree “substitute” because it loves lowland heat. It blooms profusely March~May.

The **Mr. Lin Temple** is closer to Ershui town right beside County Route 152 in tiny, somnambulant Yuanquan village. First check out the powerful waters running through the irrigation canals that meet beside the highway diagonally across from the temple. This is an important node in central Taiwan’s famed heritage Babao Irrigation Canal system, constructed in the early 1700s.



Ershui Railway Station

Pink shower trees right beside the Jiji Line railway tracks (photo courtesy of Changhua County Govt.)





Mr. Lin Temple

Ershui Turkey Rice



The temple was built to honor a man said to be key in ensuring the system's success. The story goes that when serious problems were encountered bringing water into the system, the mysterious old man simply known as "Mr. Lin" appeared and provided the solution needed (identifying an appropriate Zhuoshui River inlet with consistent water flow and apposite gradual slope). Lin thereafter disappeared without a trace, and the thankful builders and local residents built the temple in gratitude.

Jiji Line trains pass by directly behind (south of) the well-designed, tall-treed grounds.

Mere steps from the entrance of Ershui's attractive compact train station, "Ershui Turkey Rice" is a homey-feel hole-in-the-wall eatery that is a familiar stop for locals headed out/in by rail. The owner is a transplant from south Taiwan's Chiayi City, where turkey rice is the iconic culinary invention. This joint, say both online locals and tourists, provides this region's best "Chiayi turkey rice." Chewy sliced or shredded turkey (here sliced) is served on a steaming bed of rice seasoned with fried garlic, turkey/chicken fat, soy sauce, and cured radish. Other tasty selections from the short menu are pork ball soup, soy-braised pork with rice, and curry rice. 📍

"ERSHUI TURKEY RICE" (二水火雞肉飯)

☎ (04) 879-1732

📍 No. 245, Huimin Rd., Ershui Township, Changhua County (彰化縣二水鄉惠民路 245 號)

🗺 **ENGLISH AND CHINESE**

- Babao Irrigation Canal 八堡圳
- Changhe 倡和
- Checheng 車埕
- dongpo pork 東坡肉
- douhua 豆花
- Ershui 二水
- Jiji 集集
- Jiji Line 集集線
- Jiji Railway Station 集集車站
- Jiji Wuchang Temple 集集武昌宮
- Longquan 龍泉
- Mingxin Academy 明新書院
- 921 Earthquake Museum 九二一地震紀念館
- Puli Basins 埔里盆地群
- Yuanquan 源泉
- sanheyuan 三合院
- Shuili 水里
- Timber Storage Pond 貯木池
- Sun Moon Lake 日月潭
- Taishun Gallery Bridge 泰順廊橋
- Wenchang Dijun 文昌帝君
- Zhuoshui River 濁水溪



See You in Sanyi

Exploring the Quiet Corners of Taiwan's Woodcarving Capital

TEXT | AMI BARNES PHOTOS | RAY CHANG, VISION

Miaoli's Sanyi Township – indeed most of Miaoli County – has long been woefully overlooked by travelers planning their Taiwan itineraries, but things are gradually changing. A new wave of serenity-seeking sightseers are waking up to the delights of this region's easy-going rural charm, and Sanyi is more than ready to welcome them.

Miaoli as a whole has been steadily carving out a niche for itself in recent years as a go-to destination for the kind of slow, mindful travel that serves as an antidote to the deleterious effects of modern city living. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that many of the attractions on offer here provide visitors with an opportunity to unwind, reconnect with nature, or delve deeper into local customs.

Occupying a thick swath of the county's southern foothills, Sanyi Township is a prime example of how a community can capitalize on its pastoral appeal. In more built-up areas there are museums and workshops dedicated to traditional local culture, as well as historic buildings now reborn as tourist attractions, while the hills are peppered with leisure farms, campsites, and cozy little inn-style homestays where you can hole up and forget about the world for a while.

This region is home to a sizable Hakka population, and Sanyi's traditional industries have closely woven cultural and economic ties with this distinctive ethnic group. On weekends, out-of-towners flock to dine in restaurants specializing in wholesome Hakka fare, and storefronts on many a street display the intricate camphor-wood sculptures that the region and its Hakka craftspeople are famed for. Artistic representations of tung blossoms abound, and every April through May you can see the real thing blanketing the hillsides like unseasonable snow.

If all of this sounds a bit too relaxing for your tastes, then don't fret, you can always blow off steam on one of the area's many bikeways and trails, which – despite the comparatively low elevation of Sanyi's hills – are likely to provide you with quite the workout.

Main path through Zhuo Ye Cottage



Zhuo Ye Cottage

Zhuo Ye Cottage is secreted away in the hills just off of County Highway 130, and approaching via the narrow sloped entrance path you have no idea that a whole secret garden is hidden beyond. Part botanical gardens, part DIY workshop, part boutique inn, it would be easy to lose an afternoon wandering around the flower-lined pathways or sipping tea in a private nook. At every turn there are exuberant bursts of color, petals in rich pastels, the vivid swish of a koi carp's orange-gold tail beneath the water, and of course more shades of green than you can count.

The complex boasts two restaurants serving differing seasonal menus, both drawing playfully on the world of plants for inspiration. **Lan Zhuang Café** is situated closest to the entrance, and offers a range of pastries, hotpots, and enticing desserts, although the star of the show during a recent *Travel in Taiwan* visit was undoubtedly the photogenic slice of sponge cake in five pastel blues (the color is derived from *Strobilanthes cusia* plants). Further uphill you can find the **Shu Yuan Zi** restaurant selling afternoon teas and iced treats. Here too, botanical elements have crept their way into the menu, and as we waited for our bowl of shaved ice with jellies in a rainbow of plant-dyed hues we could see the chef dashing out from the kitchen to snip off sprigs of mint and fern which later reappeared on our plates as garnishes.

In addition to floral displays and herb-laced snacks, Zhuo Ye Cottage also offers guests the chance to have a go at dyeing fabrics using traditional indigo dyes. Potential projects range from a simple handkerchief to more ambitious backpacks or T-shirts, and you're guided through the process step-by-step by cheerily patient staff. Exquisite blue-white patterns adorn all of the soft furnishings in the restaurants, so there's no shortage of inspiration on offer. But for those who doubt their own artistry, there's always the option of snagging an artfully dyed masterpiece from the gift shop.



Light meal served at Shu Yuan Zi

TUCKED AWAY
Zhuo Ye Cottage is a secluded haven surrounded by thick forest



Shu Yuan Zi restaurant



Indigo dyeing fun



Lan Zhuang Café

ZHUO YE COTTAGE (卓也小屋)

- ☎ (03) 787-9198
- 📍 No. 1-5, Bengshan Xia, Neighborhood 13, Shuangtan Village, Sanyi Township, Miaoli County (苗栗縣三義鄉雙潭村 13 鄰崩山下 1-5 號)
- 🕒 9am-10pm
- 🌐 www.joye.com.tw (Chinese)
- 📘 www.facebook.com/joyesanyi



Remains of Longteng Bridge

Sanyi Old Railway Line

A brief back road drive away from Zhuo Ye Cottage are **Shengxing Station** and **Shengxing Old Street**. The station (built in the early 1900s), was once the highest stop on the old Mountain Line, a multipurpose trunk line used by trains that carried both passengers and freight right up until it was replaced by a shorter route in 1998.

After idling for two decades, the line and station were reopened with a 6km-long segment of track repurposed as a railbike route. Visitors wishing to take a spin on one of the railbikes are advised to book in advance using the website www.oml-railbike.com, although during our visit on a midweek afternoon it seemed like it might be possible to scoop up a ticket in person.

Clocking in at a little over an hour, the journey takes riders through artfully lit tunnels depicting images of the railway's past before soaring above the treetops surrounded by Sanyi's lush green hills. And contrary to what one might expect, there is no pedaling involved here; instead you ride

in hand-operated electric carts, meaning that you get to revel in the scenery without even breaking a sweat.

One standout highlight of the voyage is the striking **Remains of Longteng Bridge**. Today almost certainly the region's best-known attraction, much of the bridge's soaring red-brick arches were taken out in a devastating earthquake in 1935, and rather than trying to repair the structure, authorities shifted the line a short distance to the west, leaving the redundant pillars standing as a monument to both the beauty of the original engineers' work and to the powerful seismic forces that Taiwan has to contend with.

After completing your jaunt along the tracks, make sure to take a brief stroll down the thriving Old Street which stretches north from Shengxing Station. Here you'll find enterprising vendors peddling snacks like soft peanut candy and Hakka-style *zongzi* (rice tamales) alongside Hakka restaurants and stalls full of souvenirs and local produce.



Shengxing Station



Railbike "train"

HISTORIC RIDE

Go on a railbike ride from Shengxing Station to experience enchanting scenery and learn about local history

Walk Clouds Restaurant

One thing that Sanyi does really well is idiosyncratic, off-the-beaten-path eateries, and Walk Clouds Restaurant is a case in point. Perched beside a fern-skirted stream, the building is a hodgepodge of architectural references: faux crenelated turrets add a dash of old English castle, arched windows lend a hint of the Mediterranean, and vines creeping up walls clad in artfully rusting ironwork are... actually this element feels straight out of a fantasy novel.

Rusticated brickwork and rough-hewn tables work to bring an up-market farmhouse kitchen vibe to the interior, an aesthetic that's bolstered by vases of freshly cut flowers placed on each table. During our visit, the atmosphere was so laid back as to be soporific, all the floor-to-ceiling doors thrown open to bring in a spring breeze, allowing the handful of diners present to drift out into the gardens beyond.

The restaurant operates a dual menu, with Saturday and Sunday guests enjoying a full buffet spread while weekday visitors order à la carte from a range of European-inspired fare. For mains, think pork knuckle, risotto, and seared duck breast with cherry sauce, or for afternoon tea you can take your pick

from an array of sweet morsels, fruity drinks, coffees, and teas. But be warned, you'll want to go with company because the portions are ginormous! We ordered drinks and a couple of dishes from their afternoon tea menu – a massive slab of chocolate brownie which came with one scoop of ice cream, waffles that were served with an assortment of seasonal fruit (and more ice cream), as well as a generous serving of chicken wings with fries. Each item by itself would have more than sated my hunger!

And for those visiting in April, there is an extra treat. During firefly season, Walk Clouds Restaurant stays open late (they usually close at 5pm) so that guests can enjoy the flickering evening dance of the fireflies.

WALK CLOUDS RESTAURANT (漫步雲端森林廚房)

☎ (037) 879-085

📍 No. 22, Bengshan Xia, Shuangtan Village, Sanyi Township, Miaoli County (苗栗縣三義鄉雙潭村崩山下 22 號)

🕒 11am-5pm (from 10:30am on weekends and holidays; closed on Monday)

🌐 www.walkcloud.com (Chinese)

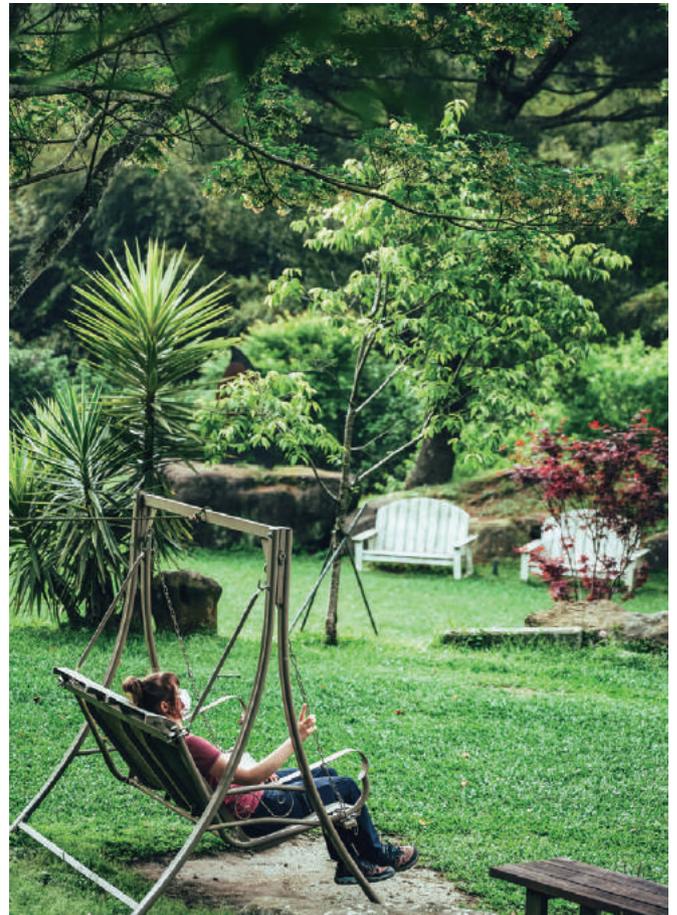
📘 www.facebook.com/walkcloudsrestaurant



Castle-like Walk Clouds Restaurant



Sweet and savory morsels



Relaxing in the large garden area

Tongluo

Tongluo Tea Factory

A low-slung building, mirrored surfaces, and wooden cladding – the Tongluo Tea Factory seems to echo the clean lines of the tea plantation surrounding it. Sitting half-way up the slope rising from a small river, it has an unimpeded view of the shallow valley below, and by leaning on the east-facing terrace railing, patrons can gaze out over neat rows of tea bushes and watch trains cutting their way along the Western Trunk Line (the successor of the old Mountain Line mentioned earlier on). And if you think this sounds like a good spot for a leisurely cuppa, then you're in luck. Tea is their jam here.

Factory tours are a multisensory experience. Outside among the plantation's bushes, guests are taught to use visual clues to differentiate the various kinds of tea that are grown in Taiwan, and invited to try their hand at a spot of tea picking. Inside there are tea-tasting sessions to tickle the taste buds, olfactory displays enticing you to smell the dried leaves, and exhibits introducing the alchemy of tea production. You'll also find a gift shop and café offering a modest selection of dishes (including traditional Hakka tea pickers' lunchboxes) and, of course, the tea from the bushes that you can see being cultivated outside.

Brewing tea at the factory



BREWS AND VIEWS
Excellent tea and superb scenery with tea plantations and railway trains in the distance can be enjoyed at Tongluo Tea Factory

TONGLUO TEA FACTORY (銅鑼茶廠)

☎ (037) 987-358

📍 No. 132-16, Jiuhu, Jiuhu Village, Tongluo Township, Miaoli County
(苗栗縣銅鑼鄉九湖村九湖 132-16 號)

🕒 9:30am~5pm

🌐 www.facebook.com/tongluotea

🌐 www.tongluotea.com

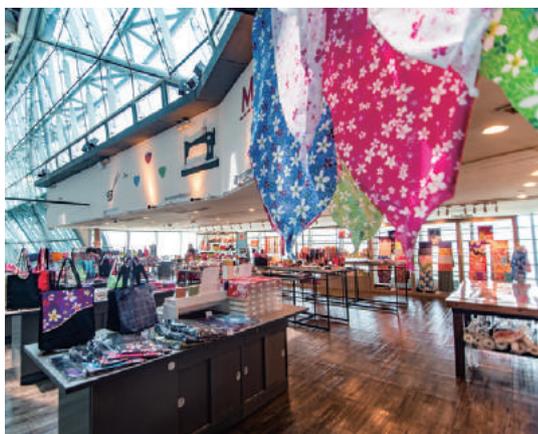




Modern architecture



Hakka culture exhibition



Museum's marketplace



Fine-art gallery

Taiwan Hakka Museum

Given its location in Taiwan's Hakka heartland, a trip to Miaoli would be incomplete without delving a little deeper into the history and culture of this renownedly industrious and adaptable people. Taiwan's Hakka contingent is estimated to make up close to a fifth of the island's population, with most tracing their ancestry back to the wave of migrants who arrived here in the 1600s.

Resting just a little higher up the valley side above the Tongluo Tea Factory, the Taiwan Hakka Museum opened in 2012 as a space to promote Hakka culture to the wider world. Although exceedingly modern in appearance, the facility was constructed in accordance with the longstanding Hakka principles of respect for the environment and a desire to blend with nature.

TAIWAN HAKKA MUSEUM (台灣客家文化館)

- ☎ (037) 985-558
- 📍 No. 6, Tongke S. Rd., Jiuhu Village, Tongluo Township, Miaoli County (苗栗縣銅鑼鄉九湖村銅科南路 6 號)
- 🕒 9:30am-5pm
- 🌐 thcdc.hakka.gov.tw/8184
- 📘 www.facebook.com/hakkapark

Selected materials from the museum archives detail the history of this group both in Taiwan and further afield, while other permanent exhibits highlight the contributions that the local Hakka populations have made to Taiwanese society. One colorful hall has been specially designed to engage children with interactive displays and a pint-sized mock up of a typical Hakka village.

When you're ready for a rest you can pull up a seat at the in-house restaurant (which of course serves Hakka favorites like fried pork intestines with ginger and fried tofu), before perusing the floral fabrics and tasty snacks for sale in the museum's marketplace. 📍

🗣️ ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Hakka 客家人
- Lan Zhuang Café 藍庄咖啡
- Remains of Longteng Bridge 龍騰斷橋
- Sanyi 三義
- Shengxing Old Street 勝興老街
- Shengxing Station 勝興車站
- Shu Yuan Zi 書園子
- Tongluo 銅鑼
- tung blossoms 桐花
- zongzi 粽子



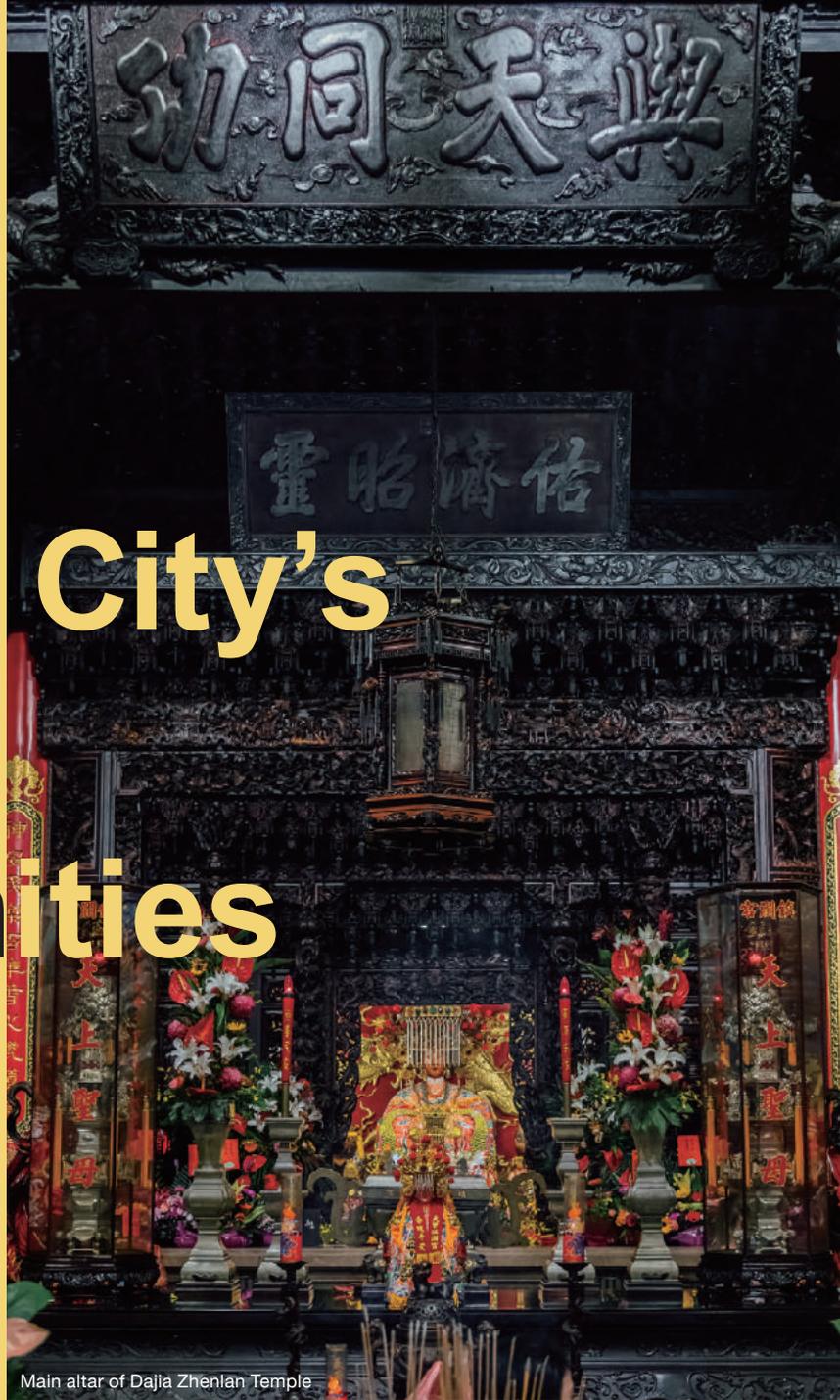
Taichung City's Coastal Communities

A Tourist Toe-Dip into Their Cultural Pasts

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE
PHOTOS | CHEN CHENG-KUO, VISION

The city of Taichung's coastal area, long of only limited interest to the international traveler, is now firmly on the Taiwan travel map. What travel-adventurer excitements await you? We spotlight one of this island's key religious centers, important heritage and archeological sites, and a woodcarving factory turned teahouse restaurant.

ONCE A YEAR
Zhenlan Temple is best known as the start and end point of the annual Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage, one of the world's largest religious celebrations



Main altar of Dajia Zhenlan Temple

Taichung is west-central Taiwan's hub city. It long possessed a dual personality, known for genteel post-secondary educational institutions and intellectual ferment as well as for rugged blue-collar industrial dynamism. In this article, the "Taichung" we speak of is the urban core on the Taiwan Strait coast – the rural and mountain areas further inland, brought within its borders in 2010, are excluded.

Over the past two decades, a third element has come to the fore in this core's core character. The city has been diligently reinventing itself as a destination of cultural and recreational enticements, creating an ever-widening array of tourist-friendly cultural and green-space attractions.

The core's nucleus is in an inland basin. In these pages we explore the coastal area, separated from the nucleus by a long ridge, the Dadu Plateau, average height about 150m. North-south National Freeway 3 zips along high up on the ridge's coast-facing side, providing quick and easy access to the coastal districts.

Dajia District

The old town of Dajia, a key religious center in Taiwan, is at the heart of Dajia District. Local folk take great pride in their home's title as one of the island's "Top 10 Tourist Towns," bestowed in a survey conducted by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau.

The grand and eternally bustling **Dajia Zhenlan Temple** (also spelled "Jenn Lann"; www.dajiamazu.org.tw; Chinese) is the district's great attraction. Taiwan, an island nation, venerates Mazu – the Goddess of the Sea – like no other deity. She is worshiped at almost 900 temples. Dajia Zhenlan Temple, which began life as a small temple in 1730, is amongst the most famous and powerful, its main icon one of the earliest to arrive in Taiwan from mainland China.

Be sure to visit the large and brightly lit below-ground showroom directly under the temple plaza, home to a heavenly collection of for-sale religious artwork carvings, very small through very large and very inexpensive through very pricey. There's a wide array of reasonably priced amulets, small statues, and other items that make stimulating globe-trekker souvenir conversation pieces.

Also in Dajia town is another regional mecca for Daoist devotees and culture-splunking travelers, the grandiose **Dajia Zhenlan Temple Cultural Museum**. Designed in the style of an ancient Chinese fortress, this unique venue was created just last decade as a dedicated venue for display of the magnificent collection of priceless heritage artworks accumulated by the wealthy temple over the years, both commissioned and donated. The works are important enough that many have even been on tour overseas.



Temple court view



Inside the temple



Joss sticks

Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage

The annual Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage, starting and ending at Dajia Zhenlan Temple, celebrates the goddess Mazu's birthday (23rd day of 3rd lunar month; April 12 in 2023) and is one of the world's three largest religious celebrations. The Dajia goddess heads out in a deity palanquin on a pre-birthday visit to over 80 temples in central Taiwan, traveling 300-plus kilometers on a nine-day round-trip journey joined by thousands of devotees and otherworldly minions/protectors (human performers in costume), marching bands, and lion-dance troupes. Over one million line her procession route seeking her blessing, touching her palanquin and – the most powerful blessing – braving firecracker blasts to lay under it as she passes.



Turtle Crane Pond restaurant

Turtle Crane Pond is a quirky teahouse restaurant not far from Dajia Zhenlan Temple specializing in Song Dynasty-style tea and tea snacks. You arrive at its archway-style driveway entrance along a narrow lane; the covered driveway delivers you to a large two-story building once home to a woodcarving factory. The premises are filled with masterfully crafted large-scale woodcarving artworks, many from the long-abandoned factory, along with other collected regional-culture antiques, many related to Taiwan's intimate history with tea.

The husband-wife proprietor team (the factory is from her family) opened the restaurant two years ago. They much enjoy explaining all the incorporated auspicious symbolism. For example, “Turtle Crane Pond” refers to the factory pond, originally created for firefighting purposes. The resident turtles have been here since the factory’s construction about 80 years ago. In Chinese culture turtles, cranes (in statue form here, 50 years old), and carp all symbolize longevity – here installed to bring business longevity. Seen from above, the pond’s shape resembles an old-time money sack, thus inviting lucre to flow in.

The menu comestibles change with the seasons and owners’ whims. The Song Dynasty literati-style tea snacks include gems such as osmanthus-jelly squares with adzuki-bean-paste bases. Teas are served Song-style in bowls; you scoop yours into a smaller bowl using an auspicious turtle-shaped spoon. For the set meals, you choose your entrée (fish, chicken steak, etc.) and also receive the day’s mystery assortment of tidbit plates.



Quality tea on display at the restaurant



Song Dynasty-style tea and snacks

TURTLE CRANE POND (龜鶴塘)

☎ 0966-640-257

📍 No. 37, Yongshun St., Xinmei Borough, Dajia District, Taichung City (台中市大甲區新美里永順街 37 號)

🕒 11am-4pm (closed on Tuesdays)

🌐 www.facebook.com/turtlecranepond

Wuqi and Qingshui Districts

Wuqi District is home to the **Former Wuqi Police Substation and Dormitory Complex**, a heritage complex dating to the 1895~1945 era of Japanese colonial rule that has been meticulously renovated and transformed into a tourist attraction. It's located on Wuqi Road, also called Wuqi Old Street, a somnambulant thoroughfare lined with old family-operated shops. Evidence that you are standing at the old core of the local community is the presence of a number of heritage temples just steps from the complex, including a venerable, colorful multi-story temple right next door.

The complex is entered between two massive banyans that keep the front of the first Japanese-style red-brick building in almost total shade. This was the original Wuqi police station, later demoted to substation. Inside today is an ice-cream shop. It

was built in 1935 with a dorm facility adjoined in the back. Today the latter serves as a history-display facility, filled with period ornaments and furnishings. The other red-brick dorm buildings were all added at later dates. The rearmost building today houses a unique-experience homestay facility.

Signs in Chinese explain all that you're seeing, including such bonuses as the WWII-built air-raid shelter and how the buildings were constructed off the ground to maximize cooling air flow.

Niumatou Cultural Park (*niumatou.taichung.gov.tw*; Chinese) is an important archeological site located in Qingshui District toward the top of the Dadu Plateau. The Niumatou Culture dates to the Neolithic era. Inhabitants lived predominantly by farming, supplemented with hunting. It appears the settlement was

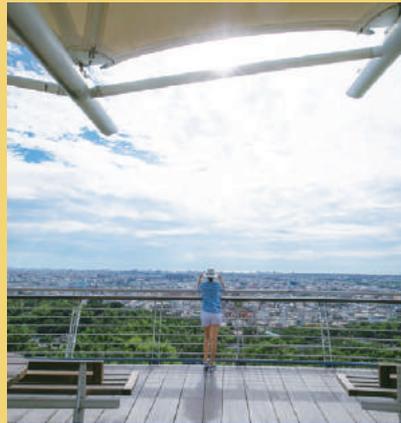


Wuqi Police Substation and Dormitory Complex

Zhao Family Ancestral Residence



Lookout near Niumatou Cultural Park



established here because the plain below was prone to flooding during typhoons, and enemies could be more easily spotted. The site was discovered by the Japanese during the colonial period, on the site of a Shinto shrine, some remnants of which also remain in place. Illuminating displays set up in on-site post-WWII army barracks buildings explain the dwellings, graves, farming techniques, and more.

Another nearby Qingshui District attraction, back down on the coastal plain, is the **Zhao Family Ancestral Residence**, a comely traditional courtyard-style residential complex with the green slopes of the ridge at its back. Built in the late Qing Dynasty in the old south China style brought over by the ancestors of the Taiwanese, it is fronted by a large manmade pond. According to *fengshui* principles, this pond deflects evil spirits from entering the complex, because they cannot travel over water. The pond is aswim with lotus pads from which a canvas of pastel floral art bursts to life in summer, drawing great blooms of photo enthusiasts. ①

FORMER WUQI POLICE SUBSTATION AND DORMITORY COMPLEX (梧棲出張所)

- ☎ (04) 2656-5658
- 📍 No. 142, Wuqi Rd., Wuqi District, Taichung City (台中市梧棲區梧棲路 142 號)
- 🕒 10am-7pm (open 24h on Sunday; closed on Monday and Tuesday)
- 🌐 www.wuchiculture.com (Chinese)
- 📘 www.facebook.com/wu7culture

📍 ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Dadu Plateau 大肚台地
- Dajia District 大甲區
- Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage 大甲媽祖繞境
- Dajia Zhenlan Temple 大甲鎮瀾宮
- Dajia Zhenlan Temple Cultural Museum 大甲鎮瀾文化大樓
- Mazu 媽祖
- Niumatou Cultural Park 牛罵頭遺址
- Qingshui District 清水區
- Wuqi District 梧棲區
- Wuqi Old Street 梧棲老街
- Zhao Family Ancestral Residence 趙家古厝



STAYING AT SUN MOON LAKE

Soothing Overnights in Spirit-Calming Natural Surroundings

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE PHOTOS | CHEN CHENG-KUO, VISION

You're spoilt for choice if planning to overnight around Sun Moon Lake. There is such a wide range of attractive hotels and inn-style homestays – enticing in styling and scenic setting – that you might consider choosing more than one if spending more than one night. Here we showcase two first-rate homestays and the lake's newest hotel.



One of Yuan Forest Homestay's top-view guestrooms

Yuan Forest Homestay Sun Moon Lake

Despite the name, no, this gorgeous minimalist modern-design place of accommodation does not overlook the mountain-surrounded lake. It's north of the lake, off the highway leading to it from mountain-surrounded Puli town, another major local tourist destination. And though run by a wonderfully welcoming sister/brother team who live here, this is a boutique inn rather than a true homestay.

The area between Puli and Sun Moon Lake is deep-green slopeland-farming country. This five-story L-shaped complex is in forest up and away from the highway. The ground level has an indoor café (Arabica beans growing right out front, no pesticides used!), kids' activity area (make your own

waffles!), and outdoor in-ground swimming pool. The fourth level is where breakfast is taken. This is the true roof; the smaller-area penthouse accommodation on the fifth level serves as a cover for the dining area. The view from here, over the treetops, is pastoral-perfect, sweeping up the slopeland farms and low mountaintops north to south. The dining area, though covered, is completely opened to the elements in good weather.

The three key architectural materials used are glass (glass walls maximizing unobstructed sweeping views in guestrooms and indoor public areas), stone, and timber. The stone, gray and black, is from Taiwan's most famed source for stone materials, Hualien County. The



The homestay is surrounded by stands of betelnut trees



Continental-theme breakfast



Terrace on the 4th floor

timber, used in everything from flooring to tables/chairs to slatted guestroom-balcony protective screens, is Chinese fir brought in at great expense from Canada. Among the most noteworthy of the varied eco-friendly design elements incorporated is a multi-story wall of solar panels on one pool-facing façade and rooftop rainwater gathering for use in washrooms, plant watering, etc.

Among the highlights of your gratis rooftop continental-theme breakfast are a range of delicious European-style breads, spreads (the [seasonal] plum jam and cream cheese/walnut selections especially toothsome), and beverages featuring local-grown Assam tea and fruit. All are made fresh in-house each morn.

A shuttle service is provided to transportation stations in both Puli and at Sun Moon Lake.

YUAN FOREST HOMESTAY SUN MOON LAKE (原森林民宿)

☎ (049) 289-9107, 0978-896-107

📍 No. 39, Wenhua Lane, Zhongming Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County
(南投縣魚池鄉中明村文化巷 39 號)

🌐 www.sunmoonlake.com.tw

📘 www.facebook.com/yuanhomestay



Hotel Day+ Sun Moon Lake

One of the advantages of staying in a hotel at Sun Moon Lake is that they are almost all right by the water, affording tremendous views. You can't do better than the new Hotel Day+ Sun Moon Lake, opened late last year, built against a high bluff looking straight down at the water on the lake's northeast side. Right behind it is the magnificent Wenwu Temple, one of the most photographed local attractions, camera-captured by visitors directly in front and from tour-yacht vantage points all around the lake.

The young Hotel Day+ group specializes in taking older business and hotel facilities of strong local historical/cultural interest and revitalizing them. A full year was spent on overhauling the Sun Moon Lake facility, formerly a dormitory complex for religious pilgrims. Tall bamboo is prominently featured on the exterior, evoking the rich thickets found in the surrounding forests. You walk into the third floor from the lake-encircling highway (the lower floors climb down the hillside). On the right is the check-in area and your first exposure to the hotel's compelling collection of antiques celebrating local traditional culture. To the left is the buffet-dining area, where your gratis traditional Chinese-style breakfast is served. The small outdoor terrace here (limited seating) offers superb lake overviews.

In the evening, try the Chinese-cuisine restaurant on the first floor, which offers banquet-style repasts for 2 or 4. Best of the best from the *Set for Four: Broiled Prawns with Chili Bean Sauce* (Appetizer section), *Sweet and Sour Fried Mandarin Fish* (Seafood), and *Smoked Plum Fried Pork* (Main Course).



Hotel lobby with cultural artifacts



Spacious guestroom with tatami corner

Breakfast with superb lake view



There are just under 50 guestrooms. All are spacious, and feature European-modern styling with soft light-wood flooring. Larger rooms also feature a Japanese tatami area. All sport a spacious outdoor balcony, and the ones facing the lake have superb views.

HOTEL DAY+ SUN MOON LAKE (承億文旅潭日月)

- ☎ (049) 285-5366
- 📍 No. 58, Zhongzheng Rd., Shuishhe Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County (南投縣魚池鄉水社村中正路 58 號)
- 🌐 www.hotelday.com.tw/hotel08.aspx (Chinese)
- 📘 www.facebook.com/hoteldayplus

Residence 8

This homestay facility is hidden away in the largely forested hill area up from Sun Moon Lake’s north side. Though just a short drive off the lake-encircling highway, this is terrain where the great streams of travelers checking SML off their must-do bucket lists do not tread, tranquility guaranteed.

The architecture and interior design are modern Japanese in essence, and the overall spatial and service design is in keeping with today’s trendy globe-girdling “slow living/slow food” philosophical concept.

There are five commodious guestrooms, for occupancy by two or four. Quiet, harmonious earth tones have been emphasized in the composition of these rooms and throughout the public spaces – the grays of floor ceramics/stone slabs and polished-concrete and stone-slab walls, and the browns and blondes of wood flooring, doors, wall sections, and furnishings. Window exposure to the surrounding forest scenery and mountains beyond the lake is also emphasized (the lake itself is just out of view below), with design-dramatic black metal framing used to bold effect. Sketch art is used to beautiful and soothing effect on some of the polished-concrete walls, with scenic depictions such as deer in the forest, garden flowers, etc.

The food served is built around ingredients grown in the mountain-surrounded Puli Basins cluster, located north of the lake and home to the abovementioned Puli town, renowned for its pure waters and agricultural fecundity. Dishes are a creative fusion of Chinese and Japanese elements.

Gratis services include a hand-made breakfast taken in a dedicated dining room, house-prepared dried-fruit minibar, provision of cold brew SML Assam tea made with mountain-spring water, bicycle use (limited number, first come first serve), and shuttle service. The shuttle service is to/from the large visitor center in nearby lakeside Shuishhe village, terminus for Taiwan Tourist Shuttle buses (taiwantourbus.com.tw) from Taichung City (Taichung Railway Station, Taichung’s High-Speed Rail station).

RESIDENCE 8 (八番私人住宅)

- ☎ (049) 285-6737
- 🌐 residence8.com.tw
- 📍 No. 8, Lane 270, Zhongshan Rd., Yuchi Township, Nantou County (南投縣魚池鄉中山路 270 巷 8 號)
- 📘 bit.ly/3uC2eeD

BROWNS, BLONDES, AND GRAYS
The rooms of Residence 8 have a warm and stylish feel with a soothing effect



Guestroom sleeping four



Homestay communal area

Places to Visit around Sun Moon Lake

Mountain-cupped Sun Moon Lake, one of Taiwan's most iconic scenic attractions, enjoys East Asia renown. It receives about 6 million visitors annually. The lake area's wide-ranging tourist draws include: the culture of the area's Thao tribal people; yacht tours taking in the lake's allures; stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, and duck-boating; hiking and cycling; and a valley-hopping cable-car ride that swishes visitors from lakeside to one of Taiwan's oldest and most beloved theme parks, which both celebrates Taiwan's many indigenous cultures and offers rousing modern recreational games and rides fun. The lake is the heart of the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area, run by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau.

A recommended destination for a visit kick-off is the **Xiangshan Visitor Center**, a large-scale architectural artwork that blends beautifully with its forested mountain backdrop and lake bay foreground. Looking down over the water is a capacious high-ceiling glass-walled café that has outdoor seating. The appealing exhibit hall has first-rate information displays, short films, and a 3D film on the lake area, all with English. There's also a well-stocked gift shop.

From the center, well-shaded pathways escort you on short walks to the **Xiangshan Scenic Outlook** skywalk and pedestrian/cyclist-only **Tongxin Bridge** and **Yongjie Bridge**. The latter duo – the pathway here is in fact a section of the popular lakeside bikeway – are known as the “wedding photo bridges.”

The **lakeside bikeway** (shared by bikers and walkers), which features long boardwalk sections jutting out over the water, stretches between the village of Shuishe and the Xiangshan Visitor Center and well beyond in both directions. Shuishe is one of two lakeside villages, and is the main center for accommodations. Quality bike-rental operators are found both in this village and by the visitor center, prices for their steeds very reasonable.

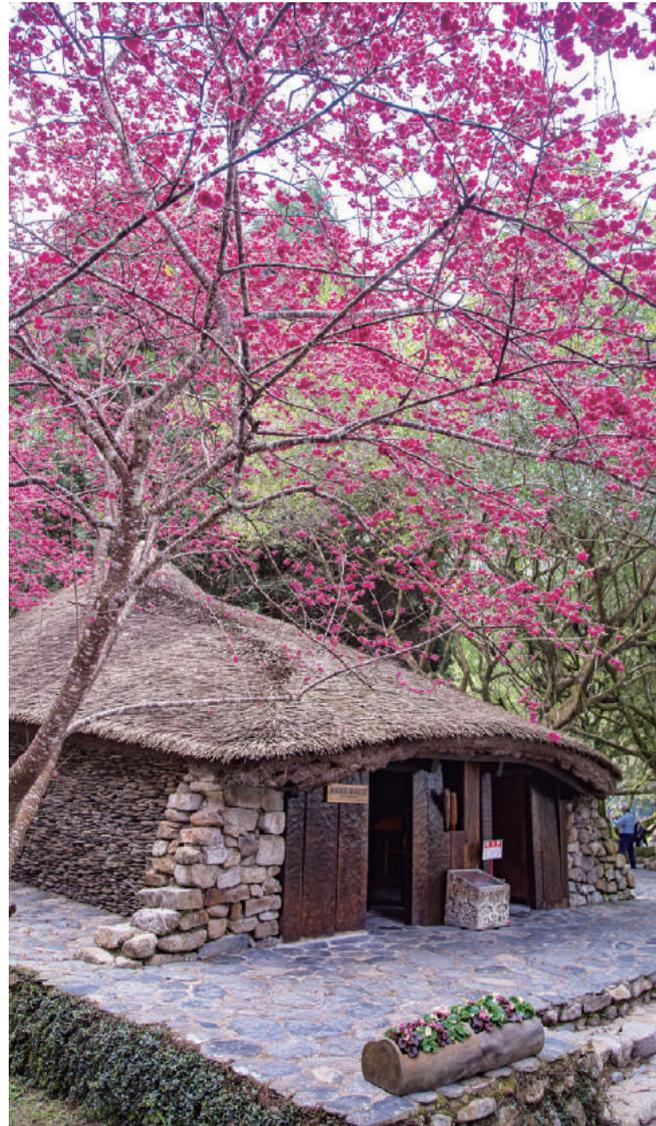
The aforementioned indigenous culture/amusement theme park is called the **Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village**. In addition to driving, it can be reached from Sun Moon Lake by the soaring **Sun Moon Lake Ropeway**. This is a gondola facility built by an Austrian firm with Alps-conquering expertise. The candy-colored gondolas, each a six-seater, take you on a pulse-lifting 1.87km flight from lakeside to theme park, sailing over two mountain-ridge crests. The longest between-tower suspension span, between the two ridge crests, is 786m. Note that a combined gondola/park ticket brings a significant discount.

The ropeway service is located just hundreds of meters away, by lake-encircling highway and a pretty lakeside trail, from Sun Moon Lake's other village, **Ita Thao**. This is the main settlement of the Thao people, the smallest of Taiwan's indigenous groups. Among its scores of tourist-oriented eateries and retail outlets are a good number selling indigenous fare and handicrafts. Be sure to visit the **Ita Thao Zhulu Market**, a facility done in traditional tribal wood-theme style that has a performance theater, which is home to the Thao Tribe Traditional Folk Performance Team. The troupe presents Thao history, folktales, and legends through free traditional song-and-dance entertainment (donations appreciated). 📍



Sun Moon Lake's Shuishe Wharf

Indigenous-style structure inside Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village





Sun Moon Lake Ropeway



Lakeside bikeway close to the Xiangshan Visitor Center



XIANGSHAN VISITOR CENTER (向山遊客中心)

- ☎ (049) 234-1256
- 📍 No. 599, Zhongshan Rd., Yuchi Township, Nantou County
(南投縣魚池鄉中山路 599 號)
- 🕒 9am~5pm
- 🌐 www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw/en/attractions/detail/158

FORMOSAN ABORIGINAL CULTURE VILLAGE (九族文化村)

- ☎ (049) 289-5361
- 📍 No. 45, Jintian Lane, Dalin Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County
(南投縣魚池鄉大林村金天巷 45 號)
- 🕒 9:30am~5pm (until 5:30pm on holidays and weekends)
- 💰 NT\$900 (incl. cable car ticket)
- 🌐 www.nine.com.tw

SUN MOON LAKE ROPEWAY (日月潭纜車)

- ☎ (049) 285-0666
- 📍 No. 102, Zhongzheng Rd., Riyue Vilage, Yuchi Township, Nantou County
(南投縣魚池鄉日月村中正路 102 號)
- 🕒 10:30am~4pm (holidays and weekends 10am~4:30pm)
- 💰 NT\$350
- 🌐 www.ropeway.com.tw

ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Ita Thao 伊達紹
- Ita Thao Zhulu Market 邵族逐鹿市集
- Puli 埔里
- Puli Basins 埔里盆地群
- Shuishe 水社
- Sun Moon Lake 日月潭
- Thao tribe 邵族
- Tongxin Bridge 同心橋
- Wenwu Temple 文武廟
- Xiangshan Scenic Outlook 向山眺望平台
- Yongjie Bridge 永結橋



Soy So Good!

TAIPEI EATERIES SERVING SOYBEAN-BASED FOODS

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE PHOTOS | RAY CHANG, VISION

The soybean is featured at local tables at almost every meal, presented in myriad forms, used to make everything from cooking oil and soy sauce to edamame to silky soft tofu pudding and creamy soybean milk to famously sense-organ-challenging stinky tofu and even fake meats. This tour of select Taipei eateries takes you on a “round the soy world” taste adventure.

In Taiwan, almost countless iconic food and drink items are made with rice and wheat. Also contributing a well-stocked larder of quintessential comestibles is the soybean, most commonly in the form of tofu, soy sauce, soy milk, and tofu pudding. The bean is from a legume, originally from Northeast Asia, whose cultivation dates back more than 2,700 years. Today almost all soybean used for human consumption in Taiwan is imported, the United States supplying more than half of this. You'll find soybean in some form at almost all meals, and in between as snacks.

Perhaps most ubiquitous are sweetened *doujiang* (soy milk) with *youtiao* (deep-fried dough stick), a breakfast standard; silky *douhua* (tofu pudding), a beloved sweet-treat snack traditionally served with soft-cooked peanuts and brown-sugar syrup; and *chou doufu* (stinky fermented tofu), which Taiwanese love to present to new foreign acquaintances as a friendly welcome-to-Taiwan taste challenge.

Following is an array of attractive Taipei eateries presenting soybean-based food classics, inventive twists, and all-new creations.

Silky tofu pudding



DeliSoys

DeliSoys, opened four years ago, is found in the city-block grid of lanes and alleys on the northeast of the Zhongxiao Road/Fuxing Road intersection and its MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Station. This is a busy high-end commercial area, with the multistory buildings along the lanes/alleys featuring business enterprises at street level and residences higher up.

The “deli” in the name refers to the restaurant’s exterior/interior delicatessen-style look, decidedly not the food. The exterior extends along one lane and then turns to go down another: white terrazzo, white tile, stained wood around large window sections. Inside are long and narrow wooden tables along the walls, at 90-degree angles to the windows, creating a pleasant deli-diner effect. Smaller wooden tables for two fill up the rest of the spacious dining area.

This is a vegan Chinese cuisine place specifically established to entice the palates of Taiwan’s sophisticated younger crowd toward a healthier future, with soybean its culinary soul (the owner had previously operated steak and udon noodle eateries). After originally experimenting with Japanese soybean, the decision was made to use organic Canadian soybean, which better meets DeliSoys’ taste/texture demands. Beyond the soybean, almost all other ingredients are sourced from within Taiwan, with an organic/non-organic mix. To excite repeat-visit interest, the menu is turned over 10~20% every four months.



Interior delicatessen-style look



Delicious dishes with soybean as ingredients

DeliSoys



Vegan Chicken and Potato in Clay Pot

The menu travels around the Chinese culinary world, with no particular regional cuisine emphasized – “pure palate pleasure” is the sole criteria for choosing to feature a dish. All soy-created items save for the OMN!PORK featured in some dishes are house-crafted. Note that there are also numerous menu items featuring no soybean in any form.

The appetizer and main course menus are heavy with soybean-vegan renditions of meat-featuring Chinese classics. From the appetizer section, specially recommended is the very artistically presented *Pan Fried Dumplings*, which have fillings of OMN!PORK with traditional salted mustard greens and Chinese cabbage. From the main course section, especially popular are the *Stewed Chinese Cabbage with Vegan Meatballs and Tofu Skin* (OMN!PORK meatballs), *Sizzling Hot Plate Tofu*, and spicy *Vegan Chicken and Potato in Clay Pot*.

With Chinese cuisine, the standard is for the diner to take either rice or noodles with each meal. At DeliSoys single-serving *Brown Rice* is available, but don’t miss the customer-favorite *Hot and Sour Noodle Soup with Vegan Meatballs* (shared).

From the beverage menu, enjoy the velvety *Soy Milk with Brown Sugar*, and from the desserts section, the creamy *Natural Nigari Douhua with Peanut*.

DELISOYS (上善豆家)

☎ (02) 2731-6991

📍 No. 16, Lane 107, Sec. 1, Fuxing S. Rd., Da’an District, Taipei City (台北市大安區復興南路一段107巷16號)

🕒 11:30am–2:30pm, 5:30pm–9pm (from 11am on weekends)

🌐 www.facebook.com/delisoys

🌐 www.gooddeedstw.com/pages/delisoys (Chinese)



Strawberry douhua

Sao Dou Hua

The original shop of the small Sao Dou Hua tofu pudding chain is in the lane/alley grid on the north of MRT Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Station's Exit 1. This block, as well, is characterized by mixed commercial/residential multistory buildings. The lane that Sao Dou Hua is on tends to be very quiet outside of meal times.

Not fitting the normal mold of low-rise residential building with commercial outlet at street level, its home is a compact stand-alone single-story structure, enticingly decorated inside and out. To the Western eye it has the look of a simple-yet-colorful white-stucco Mexican cantina; no, say the proprietors, it's in the style of an old-time Chinese peasant's cottage. It adjoins lovely Yanji Park, a small neighborhood park oasis with soaring trees and busy squirrel activity. Diners look directly out at the greenery, seated at the limited number of rustic small wooden table/bench chair sets or counter stools before the long service counter, through a wall of almost full glass – floor-to-ceiling windows usually opened.

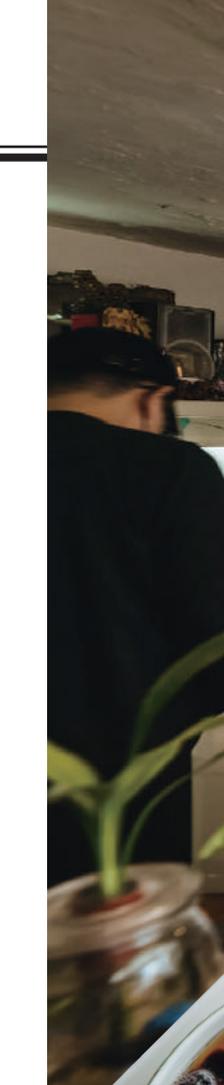
This outlet is small, the chain is small, but the Sao Dou Hua name is one of Taipei's biggest for tofu pudding. This shop is run by the tightly knit mother-son team that opened it in 2001 and owns the chain. Today's flagship store is not far away, in the city block southwest of MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station.

Luwei tofu pudding



MEXICAN CANTINA?

The white-stucco exterior of Sao Dou Hua could make one think of tacos and burritos served inside





Inside the original Sao Dou Hua shop



Taiwanese-style
tofu pudding



Sao Dou Hua specializes in pure Taiwanese-style tofu pudding made fresh early every day, using a laborious traditional 3-hour hands-on process. No additives are used, non-GM soybean is. The menu is concentrated on sweet *douhua*, with quintessential Taiwanese flavors showcased, especially fruits. This outlet has one savory option, but others have more.

The perennial customer favorite is the banana *douhua*. Added to your bowl of pudding slabs are slices of ripe Taiwan banana, fresh milk, condensed milk, banana smoothie, sago pearls, and lightly sweetened adzuki bean. Customers can delete any of these ingredients if desired.

Not far behind is the strawberry *douhua*. The Taiwan strawberries used burst with flavor – unlike those bland pappy things bought at big supermarkets. Note that the strawberry, mango, and watermelon choices are seasonal.

The sole savory creation, newly unveiled, is deliciously recommended. The combination of tofu pudding slabs and *luwei* (soy-braised pork and other goodies) may seem counterintuitive, but it works delectably. The oils of the *luwei* embrace the slabs, presenting them to palate more like steamed egg. The old-time clan *luwei* recipe used also features soybeans; the creator cultivated soybean crops.

SAO DOU HUA (騷豆花)

☎ (02) 8771 8901

📍 No. 26, Lane 131, Yanji St., Da'an District, Taipei City / Original Shop
(台北市大安區延吉街 131 巷 26 號 / 創始店)

🕒 12:30pm~9:30pm (closed on Sunday)

🌐 www.facebook.com/sdh27112705

🌐 www.saodouhua.com.tw (Chinese)



Fu Hang Soy Milk

Each morning an army of traditional Taiwanese breakfast joints opens up in the city. Fu Hang Soy Milk is amongst the most treasured names. Established in 1958, it's on the second level in the venerable Huashan Market, right outside MRT Shandao Temple Station's Exit 5. The shop has been a selection for the *Michelin Guide Taipei & Taichung* multiple years.

From the "MICHELIN Guide's Point of View" in this year's edition: "...constantly attracts long queues so come early for your morning fix. The crowds are here just for the food – their deep-fried dough stick, freshly roasted buns from a tandoor oven, egg crepes, and savoury or sweet soy milk have been the quintessential breakfast for many locals. Seats are available in a food court setting. Many also order to go." The stall is a Bib Gourmand selection, meaning "good quality, good value cooking."

A menu with pictures and English is provided. The two soy milk selections are *Soy Milk*, available hot/cold, and *Salty Soy Milk*, served with green onion, pickled radish, and dried-shrimp bits.

The dining area is spacious, with a subdued-ambience décor of primarily earth-tone modern furnishings augmented with traditional auspicious-red Chinese paper lanterns hanging from the exposed ceiling.

FU HANG SOY MILK (阜杭豆漿)

-  2F, No. 108, Sec. 1, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Zhongzheng District, Taipei City/Huashan Market branch (台北市中正區忠孝東路一段 108 號 2F/ 華山市場)
-  early morning to around noon
-  bit.ly/3v34BWL



Soy milk served with deep-fried dough stick

Beyondmilk

Beyondmilk is a company which uses soy to make a wide array of "dairy-style" drinks and edibles that has opened six dairy bar-style eateries in Taipei and one in adjoining New Taipei City's Banqiao District. The brand name Soypresso is used for these direct-retail operations. Tickling your instincts in Pavlovian style, a large ice-cream cone sculpture stands outside each. Everything on offer: traditional handmade technique, non-GMO, vegan.

Two of the eateries are in the compact Yongkang Street enclave, hugely popular with tourists, narrow street/lane grid a magnet for imaginative designer boutiques, eateries, cafés, antique sellers, and other owner-operated enterprises. Here we visit the Lishui Street outlet. MRT Dongmen Station is right on the north edge of the enclave.

Your menu choices are many (English provided). Let's start with the basics, the *doujiang* list. Beyond the familiar "plain" and "light sweet" options, other selections highlight signature Taiwan flavors: black sesame, almond, black tea, matcha, taro, adzuki bean. There's also *doujiang* yogurt, yogurt drinks, soft ice creams, and *douhua* options. You pick what you want to add to the puddings: adzuki bean, peanut, taro, green bean, nuts...

Moving out of the "dairy" box, those looking for chewier stimulation can choose from such offerings as *Flame-grilled Tofu* and *Hot Pot Tofu*.

BEYONDMILK (二吉軒豆乳)

-  (02) 2358-1198
-  No. 8, Lishui St., Da'an District, Taipei City/Lishui Branch (台北市大安區麗水街 8 號 / 麗水店)
-  8am-9pm
-  www.beyondmilk.com.tw (Chinese)
-  www.facebook.com/twbeyondmilk
-  www.instagram.com/beyondmilk.tw



Soybean-based soft ice and soymilk





Dou Pu Zi

Dou Pu Zi is an operation of five Taipei eatery/retail outlets featuring genteel façades of cream-white walling and ground-up glass sections that could well lead non-Chinese speakers into thinking they are looking into an art gallery. One thing that gives the game away is the ice-cream cone sculpture outside each entrance. Here we visit the branch just northeast of MRT Xinyi Anhe Station.

Dou Pu Zi has three soybean-produced stars: *doujiang*, *douhua* and, especially, traditional steamed buns called *mantou* that are generally taken at breakfast. The standard plain *mantou* is made with white wheat flour, but other ingredients such as corn flour, sweet potato, and pumpkin are sometimes added. The chain uses Canadian certified single-variety soybean for its soybean-based foods.

For the *mantou*, a traditional French old-dough levain starter and yeast fermentation technique are used. The addition of *doujiang* to dough gives the buns a brownish-golden hue. The final product is chewier than traditional *mantou* yet free of stickiness.

Numerous fillings are available as bun flavor options, with classic Taiwan tastes forming one special Taiwan agri-promotion grouping, including betelnut heart taro, unpolished adzuki bean, sweet potato, dried longan, peanut butter, and a savory choosing, Taiwan pork. Other “international” picks include cheese, chocolate, cranberry, walnut, and butter pastry cream. 

DOU PU ZI (豆舖子)

-  (02) 2701-6845
-  No. 32, Lane 135, Sec. 1, Anhe Rd., Da'an District, Taipei City/Xinyi-Anhe Branch
(台北市大安區安和路1段135巷32號 / 信義安和店)
-  12 noon~9pm
-  www.doupuzi.com.tw (Chinese)
-  www.facebook.com/doupuzi



Mantou made with soymilk

ENGLISH AND CHINESE

- Banqiao District 板橋區
- chou doufu* 臭豆腐
- douhua* 豆花
- doujiang* 豆漿
- Huashan Market 華山市場
- luwei* 魯味
- mantou* 饅頭
- Yanji Park 延吉公園
- youtiao* 油條



Always Available

Convenience Stores Are Part of Daily Life in Taiwan

TEXT | VISION ILLUSTRATIONS | IAN TSAI

It's not just the sheer number of them, but also the ever-increasing scope of services they offer that amazes foreign visitors. Branded-chain convenience stores are an integral part of daily life in Taiwan, and for tourists visiting the island they have become an essential part of the travel experience.

“Let's go to the 7” is commonly heard in Taiwan, especially among the younger generation, the “7” referring to a 7-Eleven convenience store. Leading the four major convenience store chains in number of branches (6,500), “7-Eleven” has long been a local synonym for “convenience store.”

HISTORY

It all started in May of 1979, when the first 14 7-Eleven outlets opened in Taiwan. The 100-store-milestone was reached in 1986; in 1990 there were 500 branches; in 1995 1,000; in 1999 2,000; and in 2014 5,000 (No. 5,000, not by coincidence, opened on 7/11 in the city of Kaohsiung). No one expected the number to grow to this extent, experts believing in the late 1990s that 1,000 stores would be about as much as the market could support.

Success was hardly guaranteed, or immediate; no profits were made over the first seven years. And it did not take long for competition to arrive, with FamilyMart, Hi-Life, and OK Mart all opening their first branches in 1988/1989. With the top four franchises accounting for around 12,000 branches today, on average, there is now one convenience store for every 2,000 people living in Taiwan.



Services

7-Eleven is the top player of the “Big Four,” and has been the leader throughout the years since the arrival of competition. Many innovations and additional services have been introduced by the franchise over the years, including the popular ibon machines (2006, making it possible inside every branch to pay bills, buy railway tickets, print out documents, purchase prepaid 4G phone cards, and much more). Hot food items were gradually introduced by all franchises starting with hot tea eggs (1981); later came hot dogs (1990), meat buns and sweet buns (1991), Japanese-

style oden (1997), and baked sweet potatoes (2007). The competition has emulated this expansion of service provision. Options for microwave meals have increased significantly over the years as well; many office workers will now grab lunch from a convenience store instead of going to a restaurant. Catering to these and other customers who want to sit down and eat inside a store, most branches now have window-side seating areas, and there is a trend to open larger stores to provide even more space.

According to 2021 statistics published by Taiwan’s Fair Trade

Commission, on average every resident of Taiwan visits convenience stores 137 times a year, spending about NT\$84 on average. About 25% of customers don’t use cash for payment, instead using credit cards, stored-value cards, and, increasingly, smart phone apps. Fully automated stores without staff have been opened in Taiwan in a few locations as well (five 7-Eleven X-Stores so far), but have yet to become mainstream.



Trivia

Highest: The convenience store at the highest location in Taiwan is 7-Eleven’s Shenmu Branch (2,200m above sea level) in the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area. Near Qingjing Farm in Nantou County is the highest FamilyMart outlet; its Yunhai Branch (2,052m above sea level); opened just last year.

Remotest: The remotest of Taiwan’s convenience stores are the two 7-Eleven branches on Lanyu (Orchid Island). The Lanyu Branch on the west coast, at the time welcomed by some islanders with hope and met by others with resentment, was opened in 2014, while the Dongqingwan Branch on the east coast followed in 2017.

Sea view: Hi-Life’s Fangshan Seaview Branch is located along Provincial Highway 1 in Pingtung County. Looking out the rear windows of the store, you can see the Taiwan Strait right before your eyes, with a pebble beach just a few meters away. Wait for the evening, to enjoy grand sunsets. 🌅

🇬🇧 ENGLISH AND CHINESE

7-Eleven 統一超商
 Alishan 阿里山
 Dongqingwan 東清灣
 FamilyMart 全家便利商店
 Fujia Branch 富嘉店
 Hi-Life 萊爾富便利商店
 Fangshan Seaview Branch 枋山海景店
 Lanyu 蘭嶼
 OK Mart OK 超商
 Qingjing Farm 清境農場
 Shenmu Branch 神木店
 Yunhai Branch 雲海店

Su Huai and Islander Divers

Bringing Ocean and People Closer Together

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE PHOTOS | SU HUAI, VISION

Su Huai is a man on a mission. A licensed dive instructor and lauded underwater photographer based on Taiwan's tourist-hot Xiao Liuqiu Island, he runs a popular eco-focused dive-excursion enterprise, an eco-themed bookstore, and an ever-expanding sea turtle census. His mission: protecting the marine world by bringing fellow humans into more intimate and edifying contact with it.



Protectors of the Marine Environment

Visit the official PADI website (www.padi.com/diving-in/taiwan/) and you'll read that Taiwan has "five major diving regions with fantastic visibility and varied marine life year-round." These locations also offer excellent snorkeling. One of the five is **Xiao Liuqiu** (Little Liuqiu), home to the **Islander Divers** outfit. This tiny upraised-coral island, just off Taiwan's southwest coast, is reached from the mainland via regular fast-ferry service. PADI describes this dive location thus: "...offers diverse coral reefs and walls make pleasant dives. Spotting turtles is almost guaranteed."

The mission of Islander Divers is much more than merely facilitating "tourism-industry entertainment distraction," and is a vision shared with other like-minded Taiwan dive enterprises. The **Taiwan Dive Center** (taiwan-dive.com), perhaps the best-known dive operator name beyond Taiwan's shores, expresses the

shared mission this way: "Bring Ocean Into Your Life Through diving, we wish to influence more people to become sea lovers, and follow us to protect the ocean. It's an important mission for our island nations to get closer to the ocean, know the ocean, and love the ocean."

Islander Divers was founded on Xiao Liuqiu in 2015. **Su Huai**, one of the two co-founders, is a former non-swimming city lad who has established a stellar reputation as a conservation photographer and PADI sea turtle specialty instructor. Islander Divers offers a range of excursion options accommodating those both with and without dive experience, and provides English service. Among its most compelling excursions are night dives (these are shore dives) and specialty sea turtle awareness dives. The enterprise also runs the island's sole bookstore, **Linger Bookstore**.

ivers

Instructor/Photographer/Environmentalist Su Huai

Su decided to learn to swim after, as he remembers, “a discouraging and somewhat frightening snorkeling outing in Kenting National Park with university friends during which I was pushed around almost helplessly by the swirling waters.” Overcoming his landlubber fear of the water, he learned to swim, then trained as a lifeguard, then in 2010 learned scuba diving, and finally in 2013 became an accredited dive instructor.

During summers of professional work on Taiwan’s Penghu Islands, “I developed a keen interest in marine life and ecology photography. Watersport activities are only appropriate in Penghu in summer, so I traveled in the off-season, living, doing internships, and working in Southeast Asia,

especially Thailand, in Australia’s Whitsunday Islands, and further abroad.” During this period he came to feel deeply that there was a need to develop better understanding and a sense of caring for the marine ecology of Taiwan among the country’s population, and in 2015 he co-founded Islander Divers. Describing himself as a “sea turtle nerd,” beyond promotion of Taiwan marine ecology awareness through Islander Divers’ dive courses, Su specializes in underwater photography and recording the ecology of Taiwan’s sea turtles, sharing his love of the sea through his images and writings.

Another Su/Islander Divers venture is the **TurtleSpot Taiwan** initiative, an ongoing census of Taiwan’s sea turtles. “This is a citizen-science ‘household registry’ for sea turtles in Taiwan,” says Su. As his interest in marine life deepened in his early dive years, “I became curious about where sea turtles come from, and in their behavior. TurtleSpot Taiwan, established in 2017, has collected thousands of turtle photos and recorded the behavior of turtles all around Taiwan, identifying and naming each and developing a behavior profile – things like where they like to eat, sleep, and rest, feeding preferences (he points out that sea turtles are omnivorous), and so on – and also recording changing marine conditions.” Individuals are primarily identified using their facial scutes patterns. To date, over 500 turtles have been profiled around Xiao Liuqiu and over 100 around the rest of Taiwan. Check out each at turtlespottw.org.

Su states that humans are now the greatest enemy of turtles, notably invasive human developments in turtle habitats and marine pollution. Xiao Liuqiu has seen a great tourist boom in the past two decades, and this has meant more boats, more propeller injuries, waste-treatment issues, underwater trash.... “If I can help people gain a better understanding of our marine environment, everyone benefits – the human denizens that live above the water, and the marine denizens that live in it.”

Photos on these two pages by Su Huai



Underwater Photography Around Taiwan

“Though Taiwan may not be the first country that comes to mind when talking about diving in Asia, it is an excellent choice, with great biodiversity.” The five premium sites are Longdong on the northeast coast, Green Island and Orchid Island off the southeast coast, Jiangjun’ao Island and Dongji Island in the Penghu archipelago in the Taiwan Strait, Kenting [Kenting National Park] at Taiwan’s south tip, and Xiao Liuqiu. Among the greatest Taiwan prizes for divers, and especially underwater photographers, are Green Island’s hammerhead sharks (January~March) and Xiao Liuqiu’s sea turtles.

“The best diving is April~September, with good visibility everywhere. October through February, most Taiwan dive sites are not suitable for diving due to the cold northeasterly seasonal winds. Waters are more turbulent, and visibility reduced. The exceptions are far-south Kenting and Xiao Liuqiu; with their warm currents, you won’t even need a dry suit. Winter water temps are about 24~26 Celsius.” He reminds everyone that though summer is prime dive time, it’s also typhoon season, so weather checks are a must.

Su’s interest in underwater photography emerged in tandem with his deepening understanding of marine life. “In effect, I wanted to use photography to deepen my learning. I’m primarily self-taught, finding information online and in print and picking the brains of all underwater photographers I’d come across.”

His favorite subjects are sea turtles, and he’s also photographed whales around Tonga. In recent years, he has developed a keen focus on coral and on the “inanimate elements of the marine environment,” such as trash and other manmade “contributions,” as part of the TurtleSpot campaign to record marine environment changes.

“The best tip I can give others for the best shots of marine animals – patience. Each turtle, for example, is an individual. Observe what it’s doing, and don’t get too close. If its behavior doesn’t change, move just a bit closer, observe again, and repeat.” 📷

Green island



Divers and snorkelers on Xiao Liuqiu coast



Scuba diving off the coast of Kenting

ISLAND DIVING

Best spots for diving around Taiwan include Xiao Liuqiu, Kenting, and Green Island

ISLANDER DIVERS (島人海洋文化工作室)

☎ 0936-237-586

🌐 www.islanderdivers.com

LINGER BOOKSTORE (小島停疏)

☎ 0936-237-586

📍 No. 255-1, Zhongzheng Rd., Liuqiu Township, Pingtung County (屏東縣琉球鄉中正路 255-1 號)

📘 www.facebook.com/lingerbookstore

🌐 www.lingerbookstore.com (Chinese)

ENGLISH AND CHINESE

Dongji Island 東吉島

Green Island 綠島

Jiangjun'ao Island 將軍澳嶼

Kenting 墾丁

Kenting National Park 墾丁國家公園

Longdong 龍洞

Orchid Island (Lanyu) 蘭嶼

Penghu Islands 澎湖群島

Su Huai 蘇淮

TurtleSpot Taiwan 海龜點點名

Xiao Liuqiu 小琉球





HOTEL Yilan

OA Hotel 連大烏石港度假村

OA HOTEL features stacked black stone panels and its exterior has a distinct wave shape. The interior decoration includes images of beach and surfing creating an American-way-of-life vibe. The youth hostel, to open in June 2022, has doubles, quadruples, and six-person rooms. The six-person rooms feature one double bed and one large bunk bed, which consists of two large beds, perfectly suited for families with children or groups of friends. The hostel has a restaurant serving freshly-baked pizza that young people will love. Each floor is also equipped with a communal area, open 24h a day, where guests can interact with each other. There is also the 490sqm indoor leisure area "O Bay PLAY," where you can play SWITCH for free. Also available are pool soccer, table football, air hockey, cornhole, darts, board games, and treadmills.



No. 301, Wushigang Rd., Toucheng Township, Yilan County
(宜蘭縣頭城鎮烏石港路 301 號)
Tel: (03) 977-1166
www.oahotels.com.tw



HOTEL Yilan

No. 9 Hotel 礁溪 No.9 溫泉旅店

Beside the hotel's No. 9 Café at the Park coffee bar are hot-spring pools with tiny fish. When taking a foot bath, these fish will nibble at your feet and eat dead skin, allowing the skin to better absorb the minerals in the hot-spring water. In addition to enjoying a soothing hot-spring foot bath, you can also experience shrimp fishing, taste freshly-brewed beer, and feast on stir-fried snacks. Since No. 9 Group is in charge of operating Qingshui Geothermal Park, the hotel's Jiu-Ding Hot Pot restaurant is offering "Qingshui Flavor Dishes" giving diners a taste of local hot-spring delicacies. These dishes include mushroom and cucumber chicken soup, Japanese-style abalone, white shrimp with angelica and wolfberry, steamed Neritic squid, grilled corn shoots, sweet corn, water bamboo shoots, spring onion pancakes, unshelled peanuts, butter mushrooms, and brown rice tea.



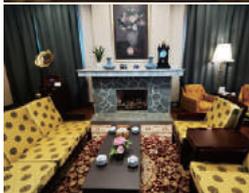
5F, No. 85, Wenquan Rd., Jiaoxi Township, Yilan County
(宜蘭縣礁溪鄉溫泉路 85 號 5F)
Tel: (03) 988-9999
www.no9.com.tw



HOTEL Taipei

Grand Hotel Taipei 圓山大飯店

Situated on Mt. Jiantan in Taipei, the Grand Hotel is a 14-story palace-style building constructed in 1970. There are two underground tunnels, under its east wing and west wing, respectively, which were designed as emergency escape routes for President Chiang Kai-shek. After opening the West Tunnel earlier, receiving enthusiastic response by visitors, now, the 50-year-old East Tunnel has been opened to the public as well. It has a length of 67 meters with a curvy design meant to prevent chasing soldiers from shooting at the fleeing parties, and walls with an uneven surface to enhance sound absorption. Since only a limited number of visitors can be accommodated, the East Tunnel is only open to guests who come on corporate trips, attend state banquets, or opt for a special East Tunnel Room Package.



No. 1, Sec. 4, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan District, Taipei City
(台北市中山區中山北路四段一號)
Tel: (02) 2886-1818 ext. 1818 [guided-tour department]
www.grand-hotel.org



FARM Yilan

Toucheng Leisure Farm 頭城休閒農場

The 42-year-old Toucheng Leisure Farm has a new attraction! A space for storing tools and old objects was turned into a new dining space, the Green Bar! From brunch to afternoon tea to a drink after dark, individual guests or groups of friends will enjoy this cozy setting. A wall of red bricks and concrete is what remains of farm founder Zhuo Chen-ming's original home. The exposed red bricks form the shape of Taiwan, making it a popular for taking photos. In addition to different themed DIY experiences, the restaurant's dessert chef amazingly uses plants from the farm during special activities to create various special cakes. It is possible to reserve the entire restaurant for three hours with room for up to 40 diners. Unlimited coffee, beverages, and two types of handmade cookies and cakes will be provided.



No. 125-1, Gengxin Rd., Toucheng Township, Yilan County
(宜蘭縣頭城鎮更新路 125-1 號)
Tel: (03) 977-2222
www.tcfarm.com.tw



WINERY Yilan

Cang Jiu Winery 藏酒酒莊

Located close to the natural springs of the Xueshan Range, Cang Jiu Winery is Taiwan's first winery to produce kumquat wine using a pure fruit wine making method. Turtle Island Sunrise Kumquat Wine was first introduced in 2012. Because of the early-morning sunshine over Turtle Island, the kumquat orchard of the winery produces rich harvests. The farm uses Xueshan spring water to make fruit wine with an alcohol content of 8%. It has a color as shining as the dawn sunlight, a full fruity aroma, and a refreshing, slightly sour taste. When cooled down to a temperature of 6-8 degrees Celsius it tastes even better. In 2021, the wine won a silver medal at the Vinalies® d'Argent wine competition. Currently, the winery offers a discounted price of NT\$1,100 for two bottles of Turtle Island Sunrise Kumquat Wine.



No. 21, Lane 122, Sec. 1, Dafu Rd., Zhuangyuan Township, Yilan County
(宜蘭縣壯圍鄉大福路一段 122 巷 21 號)
Tel: (03) 930-7707
www.facebook.com/calfstirk2018



EXPERIENCE Yilan

Gangkou Community Development Association 港口社區發展協會

The seine fishing takes place on Gang'ao Beach. Before high tide fishermen on a raft will cast the net at sea. On the beach, the participants will then barefooted work together in pulling the net onto the shore. This way everyone gets to experience the tough plight of fishermen in the past fighting against the forces of nature. While pulling the net you will look forward to a rich haul of fish and shrimp with excitement! The community development association also provides a cooking service, allowing visitors to taste ultra-fresh seafood on the spot!



Individual participants: NT\$600/pers. Groups:
NT\$17,000/40 pers. Cooked food: NT\$600/pers.
Reservation form: <https://reurl.cc/x9abk4> (Chinese)

Gangkou Community Development Association, Toucheng Township, Yilan County
宜蘭縣頭城鎮港口社區發展協會
No. 60-3, Gangkou Rd., Gangkou Borough, Toucheng Township, Yilan County
(宜蘭縣頭城鎮港口里港口路 60-3 號)
Tel: (03) 977-7768
<https://reurl.cc/WrxM2e>



- 📍 No. 189, Linsen 4th Rd., Cianjhen District, Kaohsiung City 80623
(80623高雄市前鎮區林森四路189號)
- ☎ +886-7-333-3999
- 🌐 www.taiurbanresort.com.tw

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