

# TAIWAN

## City Tours

Taipei, New Taipei/Taoyuan, Taichung,  
Tainan, and Kaohsiung by Public  
Transport and Public Rental Bike



# Introduction

During the years of the Taiwan Economic Miracle in the last century, emphasis was placed on rapid material growth, with limited thought given to a city's visual aesthetics. New times bring new thinking. In this century's Taiwan, wealthy and ever more genteel, city populations have embraced the internationalist "livable city" concept with great passion. Innovative, cutting-edge green architecture is sprouting up like a beautifying forest.

On the health front, healthy lifestyles with plenty of vigorous outdoor exercise is the new clarion call. A dense network of dedicated bike paths through green spaces and dedicated bike lanes on urban roads has been built up, with public bike-rental facilities always readily available, your high-quality self-powered mechanical steed made available at ultra-low cost. Adding to the convenience is the fact that bikes can be picked up at one rental station and dropped off at another, and that the stations are interlinked with other public-transport systems.

In this booklet we showcase the wonderful experiences you can have in Taiwan's biggest cities, which are lined up like a string of pearls from the island's far north to far south along its west side. Each has a strikingly different personality. Fast-paced Taipei, which sits in a basin surrounded by mountains, is the political, financial, and cultural capital. The New Taipei/Taoyuan agglomeration provides ready seaside and low-mountain access. Light-industry Taichung is rich in wide roads and open spaces. Tainan, Taiwan's oldest city and ancient capital during imperial times, is unusually wealthy in historical treasures. Kaohsiung is both Taiwan's leading harbor and heavy-industry city.

Enjoy your explorations!

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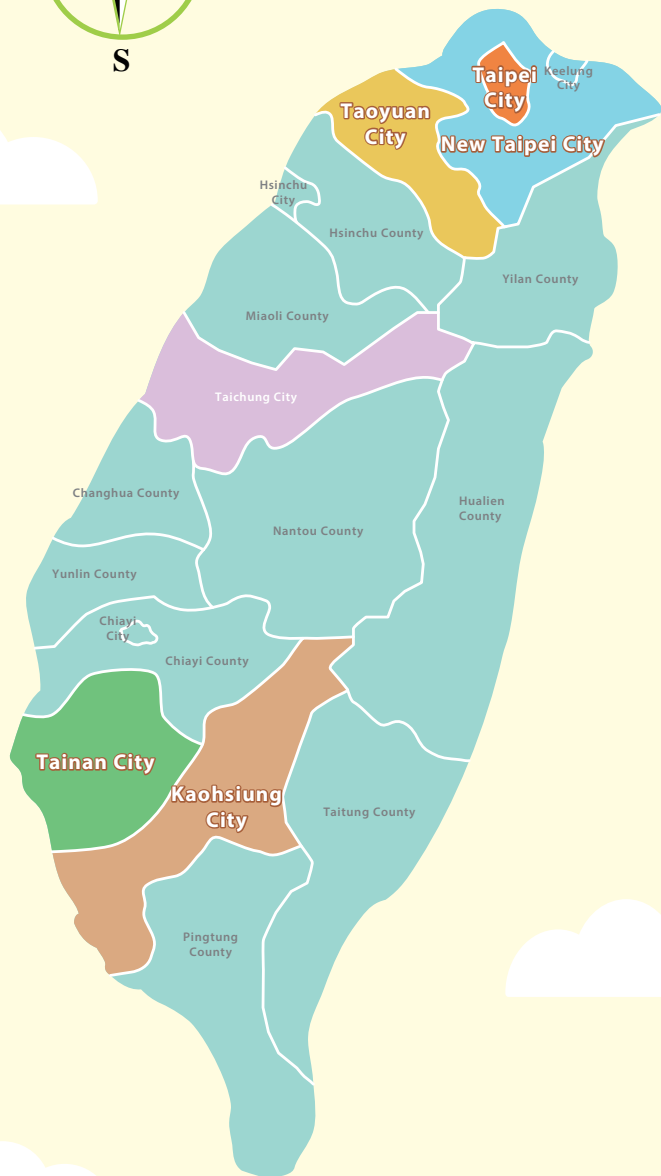
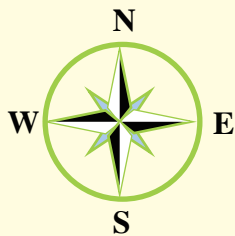
The Star of Qianzhen Bikeway

National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying

Lotus Lake

Qijin Island

## 64 Useful Information



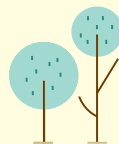
## Info about City Bicycling

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

With over 2,000 automated bicycle-sharing stations spread across 12 municipalities and counties on the island, getting around town and launching impromptu urban-cycling adventures has never been easier.

All of Taiwan's bike-share systems accept payment by the EasyCard and iPass stored-value cards, which can be used for pretty much all public transport and are available at any chain convenience store. If you're staying more than a few days in Taiwan it's definitely advisable to purchase one of these cards.

Registration is completed at kiosks set up at each bike-rental station, upon which the user can start renting bikes after a short wait. Online registration is also available, as well as the use of smartphone apps. Rental procedures vary slightly between systems, but mostly involve placing one's card on a reader at a dock or kiosk.



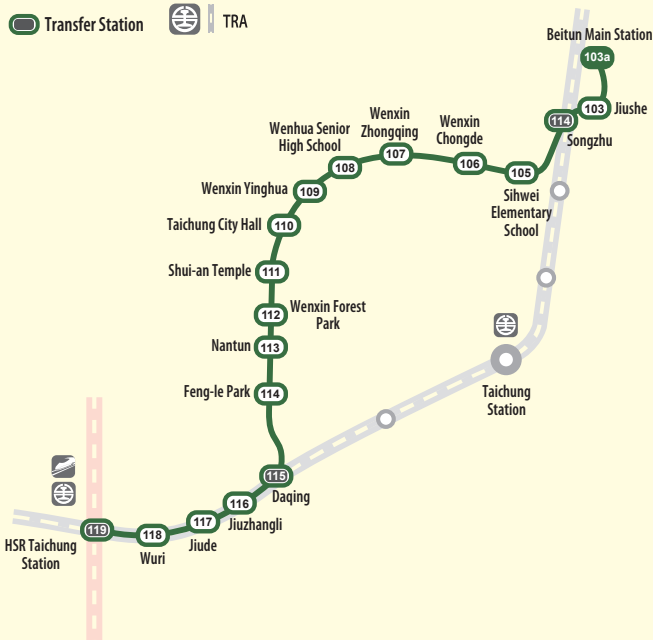
# TRTC System



















Routes are depicted schematically

## TMRT System

-  General Station
-  Green Line
-  Terminal Station
-  HSR
-  Transfer Station
-  TRA



## KMRT System

- Transfer to**
-  Airport
-  THSR
-  TRA
-  LRT
-  Harbor
- Operation Lines**
-  Red Line (Gangshan South - Siaogang)
-  Orange Line (Sizihwan - Daliao)
-  LRT (Lizhinei- Hamasan)
-  LRT (Temporary out of service)
- Legend**
-  General Station
-  Terminal Station
-  Interchange Station
-  Station Number
-  Line Symbol
-  Line Color
-  Station Number



- Miyahara Ice Cream -



- Liuchuan Riverside Walk -



- CHEER FOR Cafe -



- Love River -



# Taipei City

Text and Photos: Vision

Twenty years ago, if you had asked an international traveler about his/her impression of Taipei, a blank look would hardly have been a surprise response. Today, the Taipei brand is strong. The background reasons are myriad, but one element is key: the conscious decision by what might be described as a “threshold mass” of individuals in the public and private spheres to make their lives and the lives of those around them better. Taipei’s great effort at quality-of-life improvement was launched around twenty years ago. Better infrastructure. Better design. “International standard” the only acceptable standard, the only badge to be worn with pride.

Taipei is a dynamic city with a wonderful mix of the old and the new. From the glittery luxury of Xinyi District to traditional neighborhoods such as Dadaocheng, visitors encounter the unexpected in every corner. It’s recommended to spend at least a week in Taipei to have time for all the best sights.



## Public Transport

A major reason why quality of life has improved significantly in recent years is the improvement in public transport options. The Taipei Metro (Taipei MRT), still growing with new lines currently being built and planned, has made access between suburbs and the city core more convenient for commuters, and tourists are able to get to most major points of interest in no time.

The Taoyuan Airport MRT, put into operation in 2017, has shortened the travel time between Taoyuan International Airport and Taipei Main Station significantly compared to the available bus services. It now takes less than 40 minutes by Express train.

Another major change to the way in which the city is traveled has been the YouBike public bike-rental system paired with the establishment of dedicated bike paths. YouBike was launched in 2009. After a slow start, the service was expanded quickly along Taipei Metro lines. The bikes have become immensely popular over the years.



The popular YouBike public bike-rental system has dramatically changed the way Taiwan’s cities can be explored

## Exploring Taipei



As a tourist visiting Taiwan, you are most likely to arrive by airplane and enter the country through Taoyuan International Airport. There is then a good chance you will take the Taoyuan Airport MRT line to Taipei Main Station, bringing you straight into the old heart of Taiwan's capital. The area around the station is very busy indeed. It is framed by four major roads, Zhongxiao West Road, Chongqing North Road, Civic Boulevard, and Zhongshan North Road, and there are shops, restaurants, and hotels galore in this part of town. Places to explore include the areas immediately north and south of the station.

### Taipei Main Station

Taipei's main railway station is a very interesting place in its own right. The present building was completed 30 years ago as part of the Taipei Railway Underground Project, under which a 4km stretch of railway line was moved underground. While the railway platforms are underground (incl. tracks for the High Speed Rail, conventional railway, and Taipei Metro systems), there are ticketing services and shops on the ground floor. On the second floor are more stores and a food court with a wide variety of dining options.

The main hall of the station, sporting a beautiful black-and-white checkered floor, is a popular place to take photos. If you need travel information, note that there is a tourist info booth in the

Land Bank Exhibition Hall



Taipei Main Station



National Taiwan Museum

southwest corner of the hall, right beside the ticket counters. The Taipei Bus Station and the Taoyuan MRT station are a short walk (underground passages) north and west from the main station building, respectively.

### 228 Peace Park and National Taiwan Museum

Walking south from Taipei Main Station, you will first enter what has long been known as Taipei's cram school district. Apart from the long-established "exam factories," there are also many restaurants and shops in the busy streets of this commercial area.

Head further south and you'll arrive at one of the oldest parks in the city, the 228 Peace Park. Apart from walking alongside ponds teeming with koi carp and relaxing in imperial-style rest pavilions, you can also learn about the unfortunate events of February 28, 1947, a dark chapter in Taiwan's history.

Located in the northern part of the park is the excellent National Taiwan Museum, Taiwan's oldest museum. It has permanent and temporary exhibitions focused on anthropology, the earth sciences, zoology, and botany. Also check out the Land Bank Exhibition Hall of the National Taiwan Museum on Xiangyang Road, close to the museum), which has an interesting permanent dinosaur exhibition.

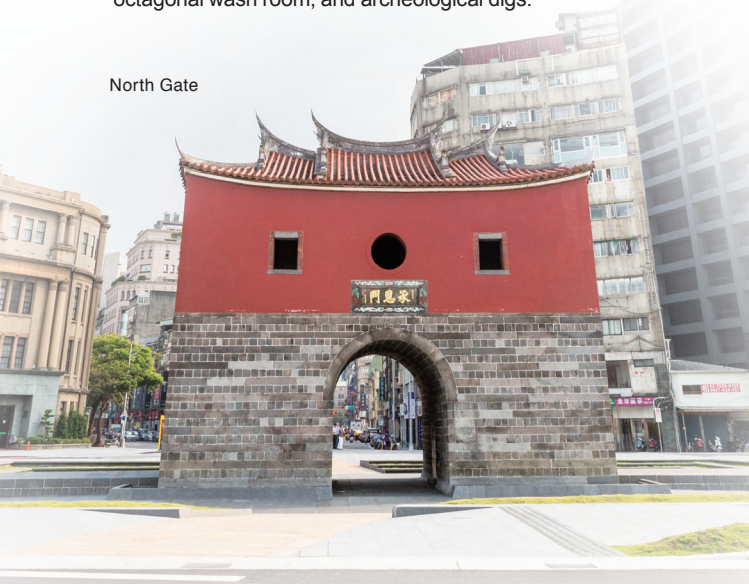


## Beimen (North Gate) and Railway Department Park

Just a 5-min. walk west of Taipei Main Station, you come to one of the city's famed historic sites, Beimen (the North Gate). Built in 1884, this was one of five gates used in the imperial era to enter the city through the former city walls (completed in the same year as the gate, and destroyed in the early years of Japanese colonial rule). This is a rare surviving example of a south Fujian-style blockhouse city gate.

The National Taiwan Museum Railway Department Park, close to the North Gate, is a history buff's dream come true. The carefully renovated complex was originally the site of the Railway Department during Taiwan's Japanese period. After WWII it became the headquarters of the Taiwan Railways Administration. The centerpiece of the park is the magnificent brick-and-wood administration building. Other attractions include the WWII war command center, railway factory, octagonal wash room, and archeological digs.

North Gate



## Dihua Street and Dadaocheng Wharf

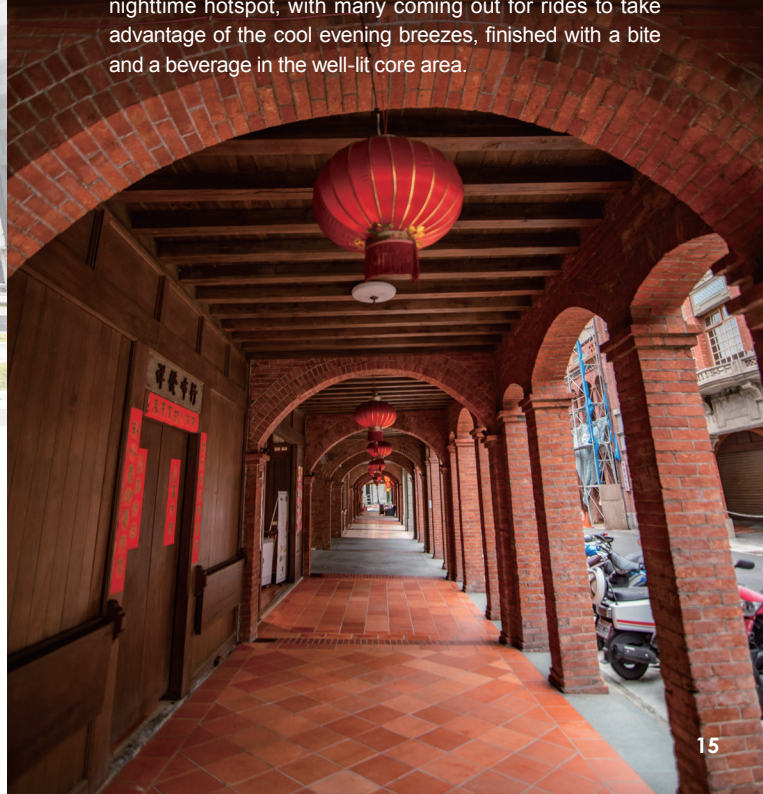
Head north from the North Gate and in about 15 minutes you'll reach heritage-rich Dihua Street. This is a very popular narrow street in the Dadaocheng neighborhood known for its traditional shops, selling Chinese medicines, tea, fabrics, and handicrafts. It's a great area to learn about Taipei's past and buy unique souvenirs.

Dihua Street



Lined with one renovated heritage narrow-façade shophouse after another, today it remains northern Taiwan's premier emporium for nan-bei huo or "north-south goods" – i.e., regional specialty goods – along with the just-mentioned traditional Chinese medicines, traditional-style fabrics, and tea.

Close to Dihua Street, Dadaocheng Wharf is one of the city's most popular cycling-start points. There are multiple bike-rental operations here, plus a plethora of cargo-container food and drink stands. This has made the wharf area a nighttime hotspot, with many coming out for rides to take advantage of the cool evening breezes, finished with a bite and a beverage in the well-lit core area.





Ximending

## Ximending

Taking the subway (Bannan Line) one stop southwest from Taipei Main Station brings you to the popular Ximending shopping and entertainment district (MRT Ximen Station). This is one of Taipei's hotspots for young people to gather, catch a flick in one of the many movie theaters, shop for fashion items and knick-knacks in the many small shops, and dine in one of the numerous young-vibe eateries. It is a Taipei attraction that has its finger on the pulse of international fashion, oft compared to Tokyo's Shibuya and Harajuku districts, its vivacity also attracting large numbers of overseas visitors.

Ximending is also the key youth sub-culture center of Taipei. Among its myriad genre attractions are tattoo parlors and public-area walls colorfully decorated with graffiti, perfect as backdrops for taking photographs.

## Huashan 1914 Creative Park

Take the MRT to Shandao Temple Station or Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station, and you are just a short walk away from one of the city's main cultural centers. The buildings of Huashan 1914 Creative Park once formed a winery complex. In the early 2000s the site was transformed into a cultural center, which has since become known as a leading venue for staging exhibitions, concerts, and artistic happenings of all kind. Over the years, trees and plants have taken root and grown thick around the expansive grounds, adding a pleasant green touch to the complex.

Taipei Main Station – (walk 10min.) – 228 Peace Park and National Taiwan Museum – (walk 10min.) – Beimen (North Gate) and Railway Department Park – (walk 10min.) – Dihua Street and Dadaocheng Wharf – (MRT 5min.) – Ximending – (MRT 10min.) – Huashan 1914 Creative Park



Huashan 1914 Creative Park is a leading venue for staging exhibitions, concerts, and artistic happenings

## Must Visit

### Xinyi District

The star attraction of bustling Xinyi District is undoubtedly the iconic Taipei 101 tower, which at 508m was once the world's tallest building. The postmodern glass-and-steel structure is an impressive sight from below, but wait until you ride the ultra-fast elevators that carry you to the 89<sup>th</sup> floor observatory in just 37 seconds.

The expansive views of the sprawling metropolis and the mountains beyond are stunning, but the coolest feature is perhaps the world's largest tuned mass damper, which stabilizes the tower against high winds and earthquakes. The spheric structure is visible from the 87<sup>th</sup> to 91<sup>st</sup> floors. In 2019, the 101<sup>st</sup> floor was finally opened to the public, and if you're brave enough you can walk outside (tethered) on the gangway surrounding the building.

After Eslite's flagship Dunhua South Road store shut its doors in May 2020 after 31 years in operation, the bookstore's 24-hour mantle passed to the Xinyi branch. Located amidst a cluster of high-end shopping malls, this multi-floor outlet also has a food court, coffee shops, an art gallery, and a mall selling all kinds of local and/or creative designer products.

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



Taipei 101



44 South Village



Eslite Xinyi Branch



Shilin Night Market

## Shilin District

Sprawling Shilin Tourist Night Market is Taipei's biggest, and has a claim to being Taiwan's best and most famous. It started as a day market near a Keelung River wharf in 1909, with the night market inaugurated in 1913.

A short bus ride from MRT Shilin Station is the National Palace Museum, repository of the world's greatest collection of Chinese imperial-era artworks and artifacts. The museum has a permanent collection of nearly 700,000 precious pieces.

The Grand Hotel is another of the city's best-known landmarks. The 14-floor, five-star hotel boasts a long and storied history that began in 1952, when it was established by Soong Mei-ling, the wife of late Republic of China President Chiang Kai-shek. An unusual feature of the hotel is its two underground passageways, one of which was opened to the public in 2019. The narrow 85m long passageway's most interesting feature is a slide that runs along one wall.

Thermal Valley in Beitou



## Beitou and Yangmingshan

One of the best things about Taipei is that you can hop on the MRT and be at Beitou, known for its steaming hot-spring waters and lush greenery, in less than an hour. Hot-spring bathing in the area dates back to the Japanese colonial era, which is why the Beitou Hot Spring Museum, Beitou Museum, and Plum Garden all are rich in Japanese charm. The green building of the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch and the steam-veiled water at Thermal Valley are both also unique sights.

From downtown Taipei City, it's easy to reach mountain trails that take you through lush forests and up to mountaintops with truly amazing views. Among the many trails you can follow in the greater Taipei area are those in Yangmingshan National Park. Hiking in the mountains can be combined with appreciating floral beauty and soaking in hot-spring water (both best during the cooler months of the year).



Floral beauty in Yangmingshan



Beitou Hot Spring Museum

## Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

The Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is known as one of the top tourist draws in Taipei. Essential to any visit is strolling across Liberty Square, and taking pictures of the memorial hall at the far end, opposite the magnificent archway entrance at the other end, and of the National Theater and National Concert Hall on either side.

If interested in what the two grand classical Chinese palace-style buildings look like on the inside, you can sign up for a one-hour guided tour. During the tour you will learn many a fascinating fact about these two international-caliber arts venues: the history, the layout, the artwork that adorns the walls, the materials used in their construction, and much more.

Between theater and concert hall, find the spot that is at the exact center of the square, and look for a round spot within the tile pattern. There, clap your hands to experience an amazing echo effect.



Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

## Wanhua District

Today's Wanhua District was the first urban settlement in the Taipei Basin, starting as a riverport town where the Dahan and Xindian rivers meet to form the Tamsui. Many locals prefer the name Bangka, the original Taiwanese name, which was a rendering of the word for "canoe" in the local native language.

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



Bopiliao Historic Block

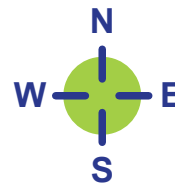
Along the temple's east wall is Herb Lane, packed with shops stuffed with medicinal herbs used in traditional tonic foods and other health-protecting items.

Bopiliao Historic Block, a bit further to the east, is a renovated city-block section filled with heritage buildings that took shape as a commercial-trade street in the late 1700s/early 1800s.



The heart of Wanhua District is busy Bangka Longshan Temple

# Taipei City



- 01 Longshan Temple
- 02 Bopiliao Historical Block
- 03 The Red House
- 04 Ximen Shopping District
- 05 Dihua Street Shopping District
- 06 Railway Department Park
- 07 North Gate
- 08 Land Bank Exhibition Hall of National Taiwan Museum

- 09 228 Peace Park
- 10 Taipei Main Station
- 11 CKS Memorial Hall
- 12 Huashan 1914 Creative Park
- 13 44 South Village
- 14 Eslite Xinyi
- 15 Taipei 101

# New Taipei City and Taoyuan City

Text and Photos: Vision

**N**ew Taipei City, the large municipality that surrounds Taipei City, is the most populous city in Taiwan. Taoyuan City, to its southwest, is the fifth most populated and fastest-growing city on the island. Both have densely populated areas as well as verdant mountains and coastal stretches with myriad options for tourists to explore.

While the western districts of New Taipei City, including Linkou District, might be seen as primarily residential areas, and the urban areas of Taoyuan as mostly industrial zones, there are a number of tourist attractions that reward the intrepid traveler.

## Public Transport

Taipei, New Taipei, and Taoyuan are interconnected by a dense network of roads and railways. Two freeways, the Taiwan High Speed Rail, the main trunk line of the conventional railway system (TRA), and the Taoyuan Airport MRT each day carry masses of commuters and travelers between the urban centers. With both the long-established mass transit system in Taipei/New Taipei and its brand-new counterpart in Taoyuan going to be expanded significantly in the coming years, travel between the cities is being facilitated even further. The three cities are also interconnected by the growing network of dedicated bike paths as well. Cyclists can follow a bike path along the Dahan River from the outskirts of Taipei City all the way to Yingge District in New Taipei City and from there further on into central Taoyuan City. Since the YouBike networks used in the respective cities are compatible, you can conveniently rent and return your bike in any place.

## Taoyuan Airport MRT

When visiting Taiwan, you are most likely to arrive at Taoyuan International Airport, located to the northwest of central Taoyuan, a city that has been growing fast in recent years. The most convenient way to get to Taipei is taking the Taoyuan Airport MRT line, which has two types of trains, Commuter and Express. The first stops at every station on the line, the latter at only a few stops between the airport and Taipei Main Station. Take the MRT to its Taoyuan HSR Station stop and you'll find a brand-new cluster of shopping and entertainment facilities.

Taoyuan Airport MRT



## Global Mall Linkou A9 and Mitsui Outlet Park

If you want to find out what a mall in Taiwan looks like, take the line to Linkou Station. Global Mall Linkou A9, one of seven Global Mall branches in Taiwan, is directly connected to the MRT station; it's easy to find, and you don't even have to venture outside. There is a wide range of shopping, dining, and entertainment options inside the mall, including bakeries, a children's play area, a food court with international restaurants, and the Jungle Park. The 4-story mall is not especially large, but it certainly gives you more options for whiling away the time between flights than the airport facilities.

If you have a little more time and fancy a big shopping spree, about 600m from the Global Mall, along Wenhua 3rd Rd., is the Mitsui Outlet Park, one of two such parks in Taiwan (the other is near Taichung Port). Operated by the Japanese Mitsui Group, this mall was opened in 2016 and has indoor and outdoor segments, with a large number of shops selling international brands and restaurants serving excellent food. There is also a movie theater on the third floor of the complex.



## Zhulinshan Guanyin Temple

If shopping is not your thing and you'd rather spend some time learning about local culture and religion, there is an interesting large Buddhist temple complex in Linkou. Located about 4km (10 minutes by taxi) from MRT Linkou Station, Zhulinshan Guanyin Temple is a large Buddhist temple dating from 1939. The main deity worshipped is the Eighteen-Armed Guanyin Bodhisattva. The temple is an excellent example of southern Chinese temple architecture. The cypress altar in the main hall, measuring nearly 13m, is currently the longest such altar in Taiwan.



Zhulinshan Guanyin Temple

## Dexin Residence

Just two metro stations from Taoyuan International Airport is tiny Shanbi Station. There is not much to see or do around this station, but walk for about five minutes south along Nanshan Road and you'll come to the century-old Dexin Residence, a fine example of a simple red-brick courtyard residence. The swallowtail roof of this Taoyuan City third-grade historic site is a rarity in northern Taiwan.



Mural in Kengkou Village

## Kengkou Village

Just one station from the airport is Kengkou Station. Get off here and walk north for about 15 minutes, following Kengkou Road, to reach Kengkou Village and you will get a taste of what rural Taiwan is like. You will pass rice fields on both sides of the road, and at the village you will find cute murals depicting rural scenes and – surprise, surprise – two giant dinosaurs.

Dexin Residence is a simple red-brick courtyard residence with a swallowtail roof



## Taoyuan International Airport

There are numerous things to do at Taoyuan International Airport itself. In recent years the facilities, including the shop, restaurant, and other service areas, have been significantly upgraded. If you want to do some plane spotting, there are two outdoor observatories, one on the north and the other on the south side of the airport. They are located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Terminal 2. Hours are daily 6:30am~10:30pm, and admission is free. Apart from watching aircraft comings and goings from the outdoor decks, you can also buy souvenirs and dine in the adjacent indoor shop and food court areas.

## Gloria Outlets

Take a metro train headed to Huanbei Station and get off at the Taoyuan HSR Station stop. From the metro station/HSR station it's just a short walk to the Gloria Outlets mall, where you can go on a shopping spree for international luxury brand items. Apart from the shops, you'll also find a range of fine restaurants serving international cuisine. Close to the mall is the HOTEL COZZI Qinqpu Taoyuan.

## Jingfu Temple

This is a small temple about a 10min walk from the Taoyuan Railway Station along Zhongzheng Road. It was first built in 1811, an attempt by the locals to fight frequent epidemics. Used to worship the deity Kai Zhang Sheng Wang ("Sacred Prince, Developer of Zhangzhou"), the temple has received numerous facelifts over the years, and has been listed by the Ministry of the Interior as a national historic site. Along the streets around the temple you'll find a number of restaurants where you can sample typical Taiwan snack food specialties, such as oyster vermicelli, Hakka-style bantiao noodles, and beef noodles.

Taoyuan International Airport observatory



## Namchow Tourist Factory

Taoyuan is well known for its many factories – when taking the metro to Taipei Main Station, as you travel along the elevated tracks you get good views of the city's industrial areas. Located in central Taoyuan, about a 20min walk southeast of the railway station, Namchow is open to visitors – one of many tourist factories around Taiwan. The company has a diverse palette of products, including edible oils and dairy products, flour, rice, detergent supplies, and biotechnology products. Tourists can visit an exhibition hall, a memorial garden, and an ecological pond. The company also offers a range of DIY experience classes during which you can learn about making soap, ice cream, pizza, and even *xiaolongbao* (steamed dumplings).

Global Mall Linkou A9 – (walk 10min.) – Mitsui Outlet Park – (taxi 3min.) – Zhulinsan Guanyin Temple – (taxi+MRT+walk 30min.) – Dexin Residence – (MRT+walk 20min.) – Kengkou Village – (walk+MRT 20min.) – Taoyuan International Airport – (MRT 15min.) – Gloria Outlets – (taxi 30min.) – Jingfu Temple – (walk 30min.) – Namchow Tourist Factory



Close to Jingfu Temple are numerous eateries serving local specialties

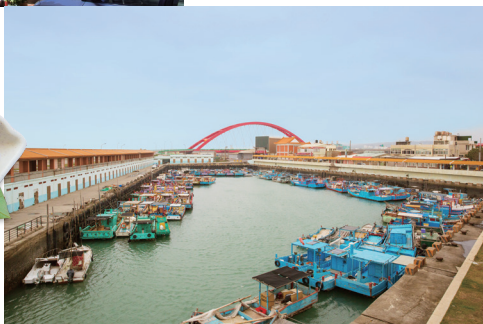
## Must Visit

### Zhuwei Fishing Harbor

Zhuwei Fishing Harbor is a small fishing port located just to the northeast of Taoyuan International Airport. One popular landmark here is the Rainbow Bridge, which spans the mouth of the Nankan River to the east of the harbor, and is especially romantic in the evening when it is colorfully illuminated. Like most fishing harbors in Taiwan, Zhuwei is an excellent place to indulge in fresh seafood. There is a 360-degree revolving restaurant right next to Zhuwei Beach, west of the harbor, where you can enjoy fine food while viewing a gorgeous sunset.

### Daxi Old Street

In days past the town of Daxi was a thriving center of regional trade thanks to the Dahan River. During the Japanese colonial era, a passion developed among rich Daxi merchants for building shophouses sporting splendid Baroque-style façades along the main streets. Many of these are still in existence, some beautifully restored. While strolling through the Old Street area, take the time to look for and marvel at the intricate façade carvings. A must-try food in Daxi is dried beancurd. The tofu here is darker than the tofu you find in other parts of Taiwan, and it's also firmer than your regular dried beancurd.



# New Taipei City & Taoyuan City



- 01 Zhuwei Fishing Harbor
- 02 Taoyuan Int'l Airport
- 03 Kengkou Village
- 04 Dexin Residence
- 05 Zhulin Guanyin Temple
- 06 Taoyuan Int'l Baseball Stadium
- 07 Gloria Outlets
- 08 Jingfu Temple
- 09 Namchow Tourist Factory
- 10 Daxi Old Street

# Taichung City

Text and Photos: Vision

**S**eizing the title long held by the city of Kaohsiung, Taichung is now Taiwan's "Second City" behind Taipei, in recent years surpassing it in population. This is a city with big ambitions. Long an urban agglomeration with an unusual hybrid blue-collar/academia character, serving the light-industry factories that helped power the iconic Taiwan Economic Miracle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's latter half, Taichung is fast reinventing itself as a city of dynamic cultural sophistication.

Everywhere you look, it seems, you see cranes and crews sculpting new buildings, fixing up and prettifying old ones, and creating new park space. Over the past two decades the city administration has stressed cultural innovation and the incubation of a "cultural economy," seeking transformation into an international city of cultural and economic significance. Systematic effort has been given to birthing top-quality cultural and recreational venues and activities designed both to heighten appreciation of arts and culture among the general public.

Taichung Railway Station is a great starting point for going on exploration tours of the city

## Public Transport

Taichung has more recently joined Taipei and Kaohsiung as cities with metro systems. The 16.71km elevated Green Line of the Taichung Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, which went into operation in late 2020, has 18 stations and connects the Taichung High Speed Rail Station in the Wuri District with the urban core of the city. Currently 18 driverless two-car trains are in operation. Further lines are planned for the future.

With the MRT system still in its early stages of development, visitors relying on public transport can also make use of the efficient public bus network. Like Taipei, New Taipei, and Taoyuan, Taichung also offers the YouBike public bike-rental service, allowing you to explore the city on two wheels. A perfect area for relaxed bike rides in central Taichung is the Art Museum Parkway, a refreshing green corridor in the middle of the city lined with restaurants, galleries, bookstores, and boutiques. The brick path winding through the middle of the parkway takes pedestrians and cyclists past a series of large-scale public artworks. At night the atmospheric street lighting gives the place a calming, romantic ambience, and during the weekend it bustles with cultural-arts activities such as street performances and concerts.



## Exploring Taichung

From the Taichung Railway Station, you can go on an easy quick tour of attractions in the center of the city, including parks and museums, shops and eateries, and much more. Heading in a northwestern direction, there are tourist attractions in the areas on both sides of Taiwan Boulevard, the city's most prominent thoroughfare, including Taichung Park, the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Natural Science, Calligraphy Greenway, National Taichung Theater, shopping areas with small boutiques, cafés, and large department stores, night markets, and even universities worth visiting.

### Taichung Park

Taichung was founded in 1721 by immigrants from mainland China. The original settlement was called Datun, or "Big Village." Today, tranquil 20ha Taichung Park occupies the area where the original settlement was built. Designed and opened in 1903 by the Japanese when they controlled Taiwan, it is a key city landmark and a designated heritage site. It's not a particularly large park, but because of its old trees, tranquil lake, and picturesque bridges, this green space attracts local residents and visitors in large number every day. A delightful way to enjoy the park is going on a rowboat cruise on Riyue Lake.

Pavilion at Riyue Lake in Taichung Park



### Liuchuan Riverside Walk

The Liuchuan (lit. "willow river") Riverside Walk was established a few years back by the Taichung city government as a space for relaxed strolls along one of the four small rivers that make their way through the city center. On special occasions, such as during the Christmas season, the river and park area is beautifully decorated, with the bridges, trees, and installation artworks romantically illuminated in the evening. This is a lovely setting for slow walks and taking pictures for your Instagram account.

### Miyahara Ice Cream and Fourth Credit Union

Miyahara, located close to Taichung Railway Station, is a maker of confections that has saved and renovated a Japanese-era eye-clinic building at No. 20 Zhongshan Road and a 1960s credit-cooperative building at No. 72. The first building is a red-brick structure built in 1927 to house Taichung's largest ophthalmology clinic, run by Miyahara Takekuma. The building was later used by the Taichung Health Bureau. After falling into disrepair it was acquired and renovated by pastry company Dawn Cake. The interior was redesigned to resemble the Harry Potter Hogwarts School.

Also run by Dawn Cake, the Fourth Credit Union ice cream shop inhabits another historic building that was successfully repurposed. During the renovation project, the concrete walls and steel bars of the building, dating from 1966, were left in their original state, preserving the bank operation appearance outside and inside.

Both outlets have a delicious array of fresh-made ice creams for sale. Specially recommended are those made with in-season Taiwan fruits, notably Hami melon, mango, lychee, passionfruit, and banana. Both also have an upscale Chinese-cuisine restaurant on the second level. In addition, No. 20 Zhongshan has a large library-theme display area for Miyahara gift and souvenir packages – pineapple cakes, sun cakes, soft candies, and more.

Miyahara



Liuchuan Riverside Walk



YouBiking in Taichung

## Calligraphy Greenway

The 3.6km-long public artwork-decorated Calligraphy Greenway is a thin green belt that stretches north from the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts all the way to the large Taichung Civic Square, the Park Lane by CMP shopping complex, and further on to the National Museum of Natural Science. It runs parallel to Zhongxing Street, in a trendy neighborhood defined by upscale retail outlets, restaurants, cafés, art galleries, and other art-focused attractions. Among the various sights you want to check out and take photos of is the impressive Arthas Statue, a depiction of a popular character from the Warcraft game universe.



Park Lane by CMP

## Park Lane by CMP

The Park Lane by CMP is a shopping complex that has a branch of Taiwan's iconic Eslite bookstore as its main tenant. The building's front façade has an impressive 20m-high green wall of plants and balconies overflowing with greenery, showing the intention of the designers to give the shopping center a touch of nature. This nature theme continues inside, where visitors can marvel at another multiple-story plant-covered wall.

Among the popular businesses inside are the Living Project store, selling all types of fashionable items; the Eslite wine cellar, stocked with excellent wines from around the world, and the Yonshin tea restaurant, sporting an elegant interior design.

## National Taichung Theater

This transcendent architectural work has been described as “central Taiwan's growth garden for world-class stage arts.” Opened in 2016, the ostentatious complex is a bold design statement that visually dominates its surrounding environment while simultaneously seamlessly blending within it.

The architect was Toyo Ito, Pritzker Architecture Prize winner. The main structure challenges traditional theater design, redefining the role of public space. Most theaters separate interior and acoustic design from the main exterior architectural design, but the renowned architect perceived the complex as something alive – a breathing organism alive with free-flowing thought and artistic spirit – and decided on seamlessly intertwining all elements.



National Taichung Theater

Ito emphasized curving lines outside and inside, like water flowing along a river. He also envisioned the complex as a whirlpool amidst a river – i.e., a whirlpool of ideas. A linear park located before the complex flows figuratively like a river right past its front plaza and fountain “into” the building. Emulating the fountain, the façade's curvilinear shapes form stylized whirlpool-style jets of water shooting into the air.

The complex has multiple performance spaces, including three first-class theaters, a multifunctional corner salon, and a triumvirate of outdoor spaces specially designed to host live-art and other cultural events: the Plaza, Outdoor Theater, and rooftop Sky Garden.

Taichung Railway Station – (walk 15min.) – Taichung Park – (walk 15min.) – Liuchuan Riverside Walk – (walk 15min.) – Miyahara Ice Cream and Fourth Credit Union – (walk 20min.) – Calligraphy Greenway – (walk 20min.) – Park Lane by CMP – (walk 20min.) – National Taichung Theater

## Must Visit

### Tunghai University

Tunghai University was founded by Methodist missionaries in the mid-1950s. When founded it sat out in open countryside, but busy Taichung has grown past and enveloped it within a much-expanded urban core. Nevertheless, within the perimeter walls you'll find a sprawling, tree-shaded oasis of calm. A great many buildings in the heavily wooded grounds are in the style of the Tang Dynasty, China's golden age of arts and culture – square, squat, and colonnaded.

A modernist contrast is provided by the abstract Luce Memorial Chapel, built in 1963, co-designed by renowned Sino-American architect I.M. Pei to look like a pair of upraised hands touching in prayer. (Pei was also one of the original campus-design architects.) The chapel was named after an American missionary who was the father of TIME magazine founder Henry Luce. The sanctuary and large lawn it sits on, which lay at the physical heart of the campus, form its hub and focal point.

Luce Memorial Chapel is a Taichung landmark on the campus of Tunghai University



### Divecube Hotel

The Divecube Hotel is a facility filled in the center with water from the top floor down past the first and into the basement, tapering as the giant pool descends, a place to come if you want to go diving without leaving the big city. The hotel is in a new purpose-built high-rise with a sleek modern exterior. The owner wanted to create a facility for regional denizens to use and a new destination to lure tourists from outside Taichung. The pool is the deepest in Asia. Another equally important goal of the hotel is to raise marine-conservation awareness through urban diving. The top-floor dive center has stupendous views across the city to the majestic central mountains through its east-side wall of floor-to-ceiling windows. Trained instructors provide classes in both scuba diving and freediving, and seasoned divers can head in by themselves, though with a dive buddy. The dive center can provide all needed dive gear.

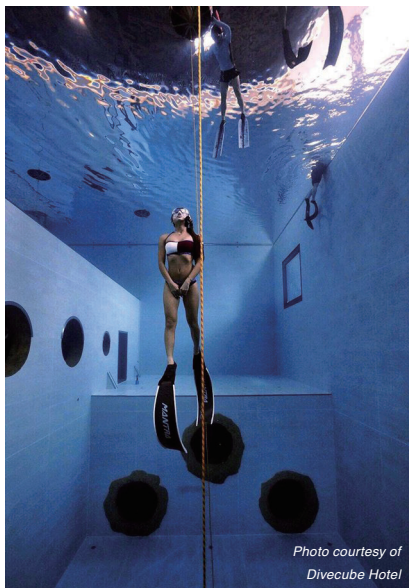


Photo courtesy of  
Divecube Hotel

Divecube Hotel

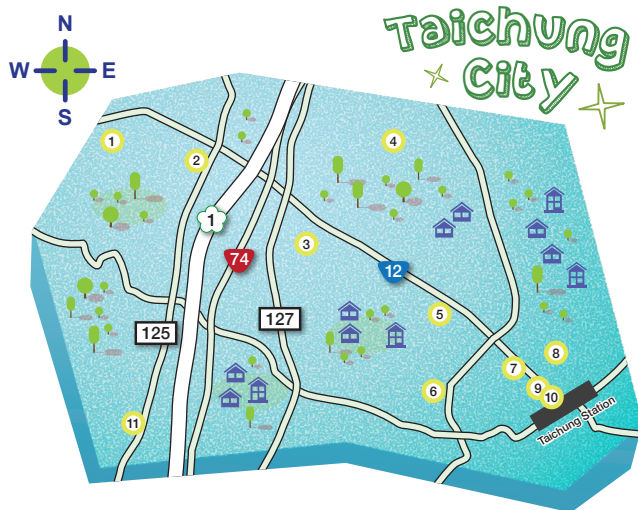


Tunghai University ice cream

## Shuinan Central Park

Shuinan Central Park was designed by celebrated French landscape architect Catherine Mosbach and Swiss architect Philippe Rahm. It is a long, twisting greenway interlaced with walkways and bike paths. A total of over 12,000 trees have been planted in this urban eco-model zone, and about 1,600 big shade trees, many dating back to the Japanese era, have also been saved.

Festooned with compelling public artworks, the park has different areas for sports, relaxation, and family activities. Twelve pavilions are strung out like a north-south string of pearls, each a sensory-experience window into one of the “12 senses.” that are part of Waldorf Education’s philosophical concept.



- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Tunghai University        | 04 Shuinan Central Park |
| 02 Divecube Hotel            | 05 Park Lane by CMP     |
| 03 National Taichung Theater | 06 Art Boulevard        |

## Rainbow Village

Rainbow Village is a tiny tourist attraction in Taichung's Nantun District that has a touching story. It's a block of originally illegally constructed one-story houses that were part of a military dependants' village, one of many around Taiwan. Around 2008, developers started to demolish some of the village houses, but one resident surnamed Huang remained, rejecting compensation offers. Out of boredom he started to paint the walls of his and the other remaining houses. When students of a nearby university discovered the colorful naïve artworks depicting animals, dolls, airplanes, and manga characters, a movement to protect the houses was started and the place quickly became a point of interest for local and later even international tourists. Today it is one of the most popular Instagram spots in Taichung.



Rainbow Village

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 07 Liuchuan Riverside Walk | 10 Miyahara Ice Cream |
| 08 Taichung Park           | 11 Rainbow Village    |
| 09 Fourth Credit Union     |                       |



# Tainan City

Text and Photos: Vision

**T**ainan is a city with an essence that never seems to change, yet somehow gets better and better. Taiwan's political and economic capital for more than 200 years, until 1885, it is rightly regarded as a bastion of traditional culture. In its heart, the density of shrines and sites of historic importance is nothing short of astonishing.

But there's much more to Tainan than preservation of the past. In recent years a strong hipster aesthetic has taken root. Artists and entrepreneurs have repurposed all kinds of old buildings as galleries, homestays, and cafés. For those who like to wander side streets and back alleys, the city is one of Asia's most rewarding destinations. Like many old cities, roads in the core tend to be narrow, so using buses, the local bike-sharing scheme, and your legs to get around is strongly recommended.

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



Tainan is known for its "little eats"

## Public Transport

When exploring central Tainan you can make use of the convenient Tainan Sightseeing Bus service. The green double-decker buses run on two different routes (Orange and Green), starting at Tainan Railway Station. Tickets are available as 24h and 48h passes, allowing you to hop on and hop off unlimited times. Buses on both routes take you to the West District; buses on the Green route additionally travel further west into the Anping District.

In late 2017 Tainan launched Anping Canal sightseeing cruises on Anping District's old transport canal. Boats start from Anping Harbor close to Lin Mo-Niang Park, traverse the harbor, pass by the Eternal Golden Castle, cross Kunshen Lake (Tainan's ship harbor), enter the canal's south end, and finally exit the north end back at Anping Harbor. The tour length is 10km, duration about one hour. A memorable thrill for partakers is the call to duck below the gunwales when passing under three low-slung older bridges.



Anping Canal cruise



## Exploring Tainan

Tainan, Taiwan's old capital, has a rich history and a large number of heritage sites to visit. Many of its best attractions, including Confucius Temple, Chikan Tower, Anping Fort, and Eternal Golden Castle, are located in close proximity to each other, with the two main clusters to be found in the city's West Central and Anping districts.

### West Central District

Chikan Tower is a national historic site that is also known as Fort Provintia. Its original structure was built in 1652 by the Dutch, and it was later remodeled numerous times. The complex includes the Haisheng Temple, Wengchang Pavilion, and a statue of Koxinga, the Ming loyalist who freed Taiwan from the Dutch. Also a national historic site, the nearby Confucius Temple was built in the mid-17th century. The oldest temple dedicated to Confucius in Taiwan, its last major restoration was in 1977.

The Hayashi Department Store is the oldest surviving department store in Taiwan. The site was established by a Japanese merchant surnamed Hayashi in 1932, and this was the first department store in Taiwan to have an elevator. Today, it is home to shops selling old-time souvenirs, a nostalgic café, and restaurants.

The Blueprint Culture & Creative Park is a narrow-lane complex of renovated simple, cement-walled buildings, originally dormitories

built by the Japanese to house judicial-authority employees. Today the complex is home to an attractive cluster of artisanal outlets and creative eateries.

The Tainan Art Museum has two buildings in separate locations. Building 1 is an Art Deco-influenced former police station that dates from the period of Japanese colonial rule. Building 2, by contrast, is a striking purpose-built structure. It's been variously likened to a mockup for a base on Mars and to a ziggurat. The four galleries on the first floor of Building 2 are devoted to works that exemplify or were inspired by Taiwan's traditional religious arts.



Blueprint Culture & Creative Park

From top: Chikan Tower, Hayashi Department Store, and Tainan Art Museum

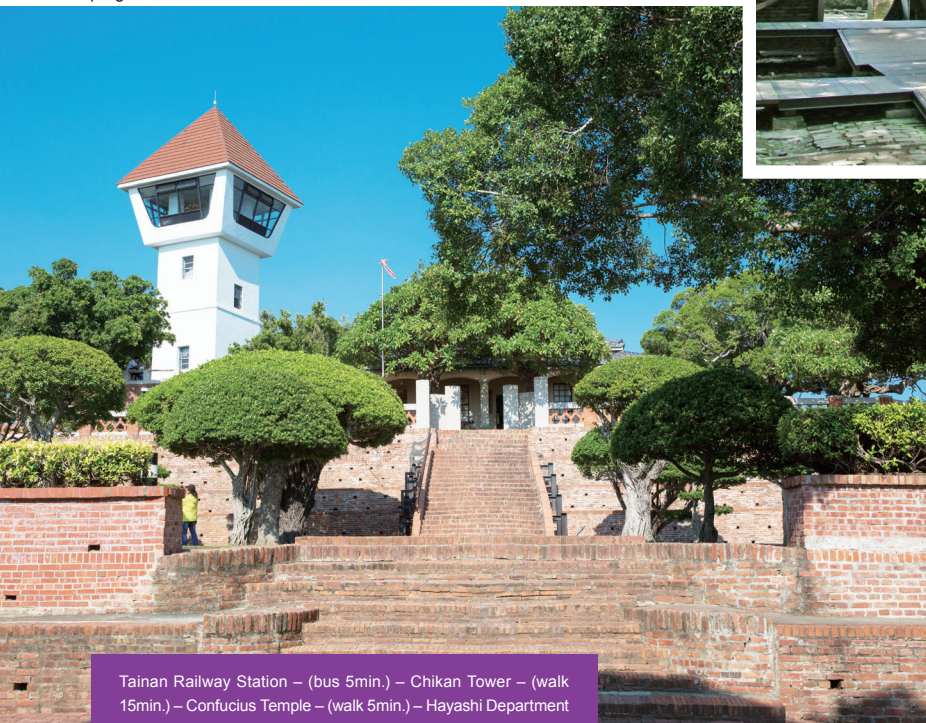


## Anping District

Anping Fort is a national historic site that was built by the Dutch, completed in 1634 and originally named Fort Zeelandia. The Dutch sought to rule Taiwan from 1624 to the time they were ousted by the celebrated Ming dynasty loyalist Koxinga in 1662. The Japanese introduced new structures during their 1895-1945 period of colonial rule. The complex was renovated and extended in 1975. An observation tower allows you to enjoy a 360-degree view of Anping District and beyond.

Just north of Anping Fort is a heritage-architecture tandem only opened to the public in recent years, the Old Tait & Company Merchant House and, directly behind, the Anping Tree House were both built by a British trading firm after the Second Opium War forced China to open ports to Western trade in 1858. The

Anping Fort



Tainan Railway Station – (bus 5min.) – Chikan Tower – (walk 15min.) – Confucius Temple – (walk 5min.) – Hayashi Department Store – (walk 10min.) – Blueprint Culture & Creative Park – (walk 10min.) – Tainan Art Museum Building 2 – (bus 20min.) – Anping Fort – (walk 5min.) – Old Tait & Company Merchant House/ Anping Tree House – (taxi 10min.) – Eternal Golden Castle

Anping Tree House



Anping tofu pudding



facilities were later abandoned when the Japanese targeted the lucrative opium and camphor trades during their colonial rule of Taiwan. Inside the breezy, graceful arcaded colonial-style trading house are displays on the area's imperial-era history. The treehouse, originally conjoined warehouses, has been completely overrun by massive banyan trees, creating a fairytale maze.

The Eternal Golden Castle, actually a fort, was built by the Chinese in the 1870s as protection against grasping colonial powers. Designed by a Frenchman, massive bastions are found at the corners of the four high, thick walls, with a moat making enemy access even more difficult. On display inside are giant cannons and archeological digs.



The Spring

## Must Visit

### The Spring

When the authorities decided to demolish Tainan Chinatown, a mall built in the early 1980s, they engaged Dutch architects MVRDV to bring more greenery into the heart of the city and turn the site into a plaza with a difference. Taking advantage of what used to be the mall's basement, the design team created a public space below street level. Between the old building's beams and columns whitewashed remnants, an undulating roughcast surface has been laid. The height differences aren't there purely for aesthetic reasons, but calculated so water accumulates into a miniature lagoon complete with tree-studded islets.

### Shennong Street

Shennong Street is a well-preserved old street with quite a few Qing Dynasty and Japanese colonial period buildings still to be

seen. Its city-designated historic sites include Jinhua Temple and Yaowang Temple, giving it a strong historical flavor. Many distinctive stores, cafés, and bars have opened up along the street in recent years, which, together with the modern art on nearby Hai'an Road, have driven the area's development.

### Yongle Market

Tainan is a great place to dive into the world of Taiwan's famous street foods. If you want to eat like the locals, head to Yongle Market, 10min. by foot west of Chikan Tower. Along Guohua Street, on the east side of the old market building, are numerous eateries selling all the "snack eat" goodies the city is well-known for, including oily rice, rice dumplings, rice pudding, spring rolls, oyster omelets, soy bean pudding, milk fish noodles, and pork belly buns.



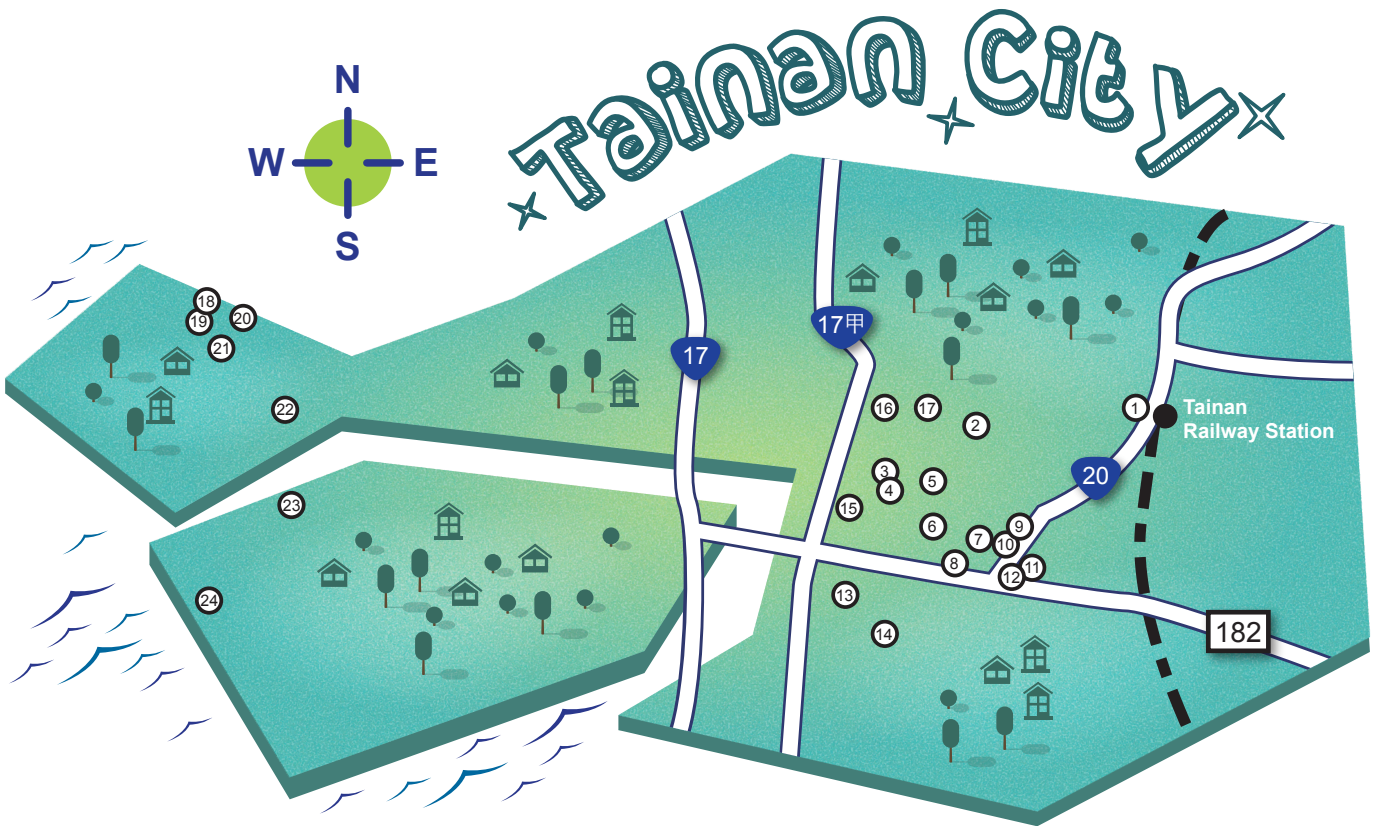
Yongle Market



Shennong Street is known for its Qing Dynasty and Japanese colonial period buildings

- 01 Tainan Sightseeing Bus
- 02 Chikan Tower
- 03 Brian Black Tea
- 04 Chiu Family Noodle Restaurant
- 05 Ice Country
- 06 Du Hsiao Yueh Restaurant
- 07 Hayashi Department Store
- 08 Tainan Art Museum Building 2
- 09 Tainan Art Museum Building 1
- 10 Tainan Confucius Temple
- 11 Narrow Door Cafe
- 12 Lily Fruit

- 13 Ai Zi Cheng Shrimp Rice
- 14 Blueprint Culture & Creative Park
- 15 The Spring
- 16 Shennong Street
- 17 Yongle Market
- 18 Anping Tree House
- 19 Former Tait & Co. Merchant House
- 20 Anping Bean Jelly
- 21 Anping Old Fort
- 22 Deyi Shrimp Biscuits
- 23 Anping Canal Yacht Tour
- 24 Eternal Golden Castle



# Kaohsiung City

Text and Photos: Vision

Located in Taiwan's far south, Kaohsiung is Taiwan's industrial powerhouse. It is home to a population of hard-working can-do people that long chafed at their home's reputation as Taiwan's "second city," with first city Taipei hogging the limelight as the island's political and cultural powerhouse. What have they done about it? In true Kaohsiung get-it-done fashion, they've been hard at work since the late 1990s remaking the city brand, seeking to craft a cultural destination that draws spotlight attention on the international stage.

## Public Transport

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

Kaohsiung has an international airport with air routes connecting the city to major airports in the region and beyond. The airport has its own KMRT station, making it easy for arriving travelers to reach the downtown area.

The YouBike public bike-rental system has also been set up in Kaohsiung, along with a widespread network of dedicated bike paths.

The 85 Sky Tower is one of the landmarks of Kaohsiung City



## Exploring Kaohsiung



Among the areas in the heart of Kaohsiung you want to explore are the Love River, Kaohsiung Harbor, Xizi Bay, Qijin Island, and the Sanduo Shopping District. The harbor dominates the cityscape, and apart from ocean-going vessels there are a number of fine cultural and commercial places to visit, including The Pier-2 Art Center. Taking the ferry to Qijin Island is a must for visitors, the island offering a rich mix of history, scenery, and local delicacies. For a bit of romance, wait for the sun to set beyond the island, and afterwards go for a walk along or take a boat ride on the Love River.



Xizi Bay

### Sizihwan Station/Hamasen Station

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

KW2 is a former warehouse transformed into a shopping and dining space



### Yanchengpu Station/Penglai Pier-2 Station

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

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

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



Pier-2 Art Center



Yancheng snack food

## Love Pier Station/Glory Pier Station

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

To see the ultra-modern side of Kaohsiung, take the LRT to Kaohsiung Exhibition Center Station. Between the station and the exhibition center is the spacious Singuang Riverside Park, a great place for taking photographs, especially with the 85 Sky Tower as backdrop.

## 85 Sky Tower and Sanduo Shopping District

The 85 Sky Tower is one of the landmarks of the city, and the best destination for eagle-eye views over the metropolis (there is an observatory on floors 74/75). A modern, and green, building in the area is the Kaohsiung Public Library, a place to sit down and relax in a stylishly designed space.

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



Zuoying High Speed Rail Station – (MRT 25min.) – Sizihwan Station/Hamansen Station – (MRT 2min.) – Yanchengpu Station/Penglai Pier-2 Station – (MRT 4min.) – Love Pier Station/Glory Pier Station – (MRT 6min.) – Kaohsiung Exhibition Center – (walk 5min.) – 85 Sky Tower – (bus 5min.) – Sanduo Shopping District

Love River

## Must Visit

### The Star of Qianzhen Bikeway

The Star of Qianzhen bike bridge is not only one of the best places to watch the Kaohsiung skyline at night; the curvy, organically-designed structure itself becomes a stunning illuminated sculpture that's magical to ride through. The bridge connects three major bike paths, and also connects to Kaohsiung's light rail system as well as to a KMRT station, where YouBikes are available for rent. From the bridge, follow Kaisyuan Road southwest to reach the Dream Mall, the largest shopping mall in Taiwan. Head northeast and you'll arrive at the Kaisyuan and Jinzuan night markets, which combine to make the largest night market in Taiwan.

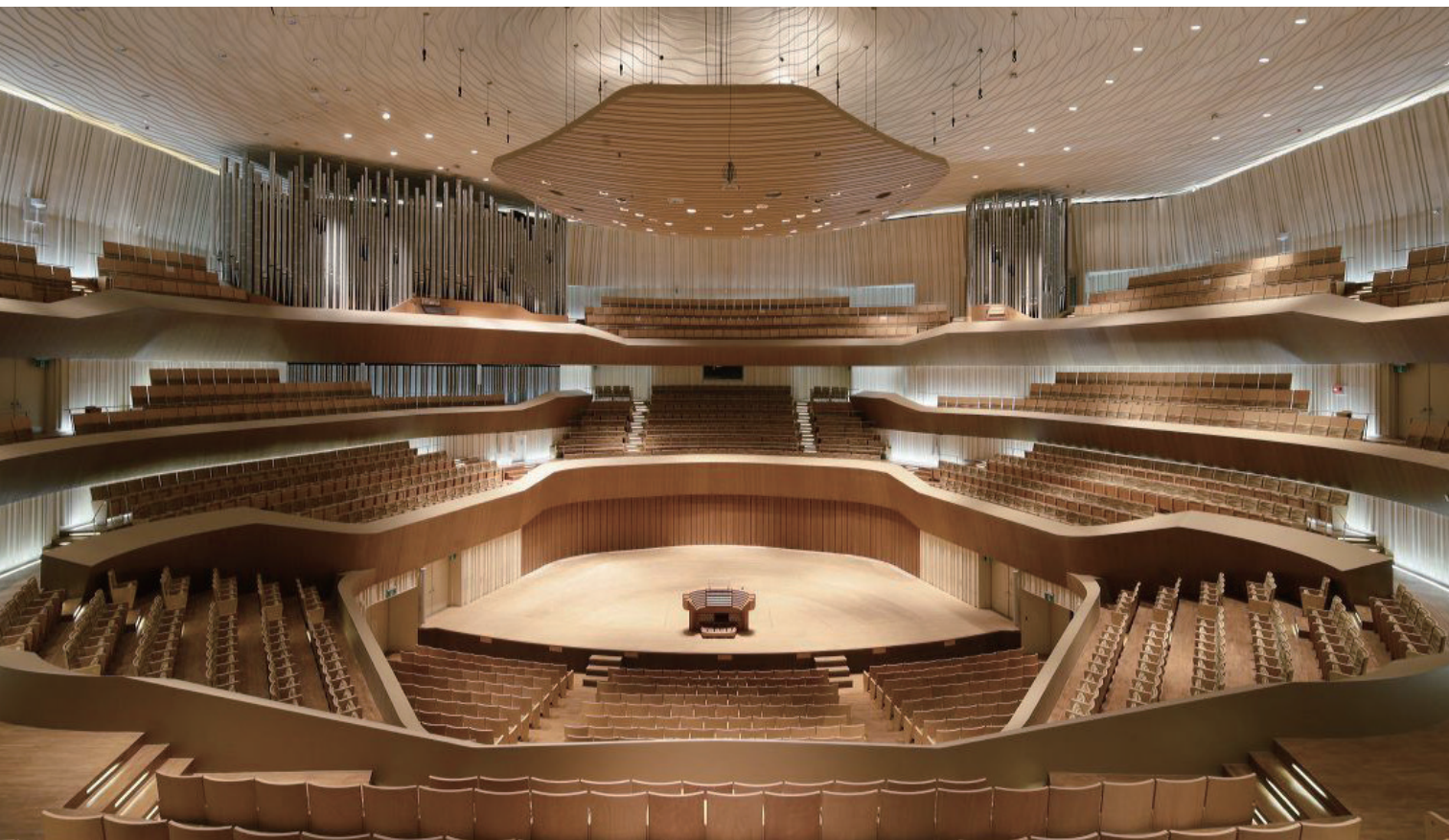


Star of Qianzhen Bikeway

### National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying

The National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying, located next to the Weiwuying Metropolitan Park in Fengshan District, is a modern architectural marvel and a world-class venue for the performing arts. Opened in 2018, the center has a striking design that includes a grand stage on the roof used for large outdoor happenings. The architects, inspired by the impressive canopies of local banyan trees, incorporated a large shady space below the structure that is accessible to the public throughout the day. In 2019, the center made TIME magazine's list of the World's Greatest Places.

National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying







Dragon and Tiger Pagodas

## Lotus Lake

Lotus Lake, also known as Lotus Pond, is located southwest of Zuoying Station (Taiwan High Speed Rail and TRA service). This manmade lake, covering 42ha, has been a popular tourist destination ever since it was created in the early 1950s, attracting visitors with its many sites of worship (20 temples in total, including Kaohsiung's Confucius Temple) and its quirky and colorful structures, including the Dragon and Tiger Pagodas, the Spring and Autumn Pavilions, and the statue of the deity Xuan Wu (Beiji Pavilion), all located on the western bank of the lake.

## Qijin Island

Qijin is the long, narrow island that shelters Kaohsiung Harbor from the waters of the Taiwan Strait. It's just a short ferry ride from either Gushan Ferry Pier or Banana Pier. At the island's northern tip is a hillock overlooking the northern entrance to the harbor. Follow the signposted path to reach the delightful Kaohsiung Lighthouse. From its grounds you can enjoy stunning views south over Qijin Island. Near the lighthouse is another historic site, Qihou Fort, another excellent vantage point from which to take in Qijin Island. Other must-sees on the island are Tianhou Temple, Qijin Seaside Park, Qijin Shell Museum, and the Rainbow Church.



Kaohsiung Lighthouse on Qijin Island



- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 01 Xizi Bay              | 09 Love Pier Station                                |
| 02 Qijin Island          | 10 Glory Pier                                       |
| 03 Sizihwan Station      | 11 Kaohsiung Exhibition Center Station              |
| 04 Hamasen Station       | 12 85 Sky Tower                                     |
| 05 Penglai Pier-2        | 13 Sanduo Shopping District Station                 |
| 06 The Pier-2 Art Center | 14 Star of Qianzhen                                 |
| 07 Yanchengpu Station    | 15 National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts-Weiwaying |
| 08 Love River            | 16 Lotus Lake                                       |

# USEFUL INFORMATION

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## Transportation Information

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### Taiwan Tourist Shuttle

( 台灣好行 )

**Add:** 9F, No. 290, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Taipei City

( 台北市忠孝東路 4 段 290 號 9 樓 )

**Tel:** (02) 2349-1500

**Website:** www.taiwantrip.com.tw

### Taiwan Tour Bus

( 台灣觀光巴士 )

**Add:** 9F, No. 290, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Taipei City

( 台北市忠孝東路 4 段 290 號 9 樓 )

**Tel:** (02) 2349-1500

**Website:** www.taiwantourbus.com.tw

### Travel Service Center of the Tourism Bureau (Taiwan Taoyuan Int'l Airport)

( 桃園國際機場旅客服務中心 )

**Add:** No. 15, Hangzhan S. Rd., Taoyuan City ( 桃園市航站南路 15 號 )

**Service Hotline:**

**Terminal One:** (03) 398-2194

**Terminal Two:** (03) 398-3341

**Website:** www.taoyuanairport.gov.tw

### Travel Service Center of the Tourism Bureau (Kaohsiung Int'l Airport)

( 高雄國際機場旅客服務中心 )

**Add:** No. 2, Zhongshan 4th Rd., Kaohsiung City ( 高雄市中山四路 2 號 )

**Service Hotline:** 0800-252-550,

(07) 805-7888

**Website:** www.kia.gov.tw

### Taiwan Railways Administration

( 臺灣鐵路管理局 )

**Tel:** (02) 2381-5226

**Website:** www.railway.gov.tw

### Taiwan High Speed Rail

( 台灣高鐵公司 )

**Service Hotline:** (02) 6626-8000

**Website:** www.thsrc.com.tw

### Metro Taipei

( 台北捷運公司 )

**Add:** No. 7, Ln. 48, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City

( 台北市中山北路 2 段 48 巷 7 號 )

**Tel:** (02) 2181-2345

**Website:** www.metro.taipei

## Tourism Information

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### Taiwan Tourism Bureau

( 交通部觀光局 )

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**Tel:** (02) 2349-1500

24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information

**Hotline:** 0800-011-765

**Website:** eng.taiwan.net.tw

### Taipei City

( 台北市 )

**Website:** www.travel.taipei

### New Taipei City

( 新北市 )

**Website:** tour.ntpc.gov.tw

### Taoyuan City

( 桃園市 )

**Website:** travel.tycg.gov.tw

### Taichung City

( 台中市 )

**Website:** travel.taichung.gov.tw

### Tainan City

( 台南市 )

**Website:** www.twtainan.net

### Kaohsiung City

( 高雄市 )

**Website:** khh.travel

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