

Taipei

Taiwan

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Taipei is Taiwan's capital, a city where a night market alley sits two blocks from a glass skyscraper. Taipei 101 anchors a skyline home to about 2.4 million people, but the older grain of the city survives in temple courtyards, tea houses, and hillside trails. It suits travelers who want a mix of pace: brisk mornings on the MRT, slow afternoons in a teahouse, and evenings grazing street food.

Mountains ring the city on three sides, so hiking and hot springs are a short ride from downtown, not a separate trip. Da'an Forest Park gives the center a large green break from the streets, and the hills to the north rise into Yangmingshan National Park, still within the city limits.

When to visit

Spring (February to April) is mild and the most comfortable season for walking the city. Summer (May to September) is hot, humid, and prone to typhoons, with sudden afternoon downpours. Autumn (October-November) is warm but drier, and winter (December-January) is mild with frequent rain rather than cold.

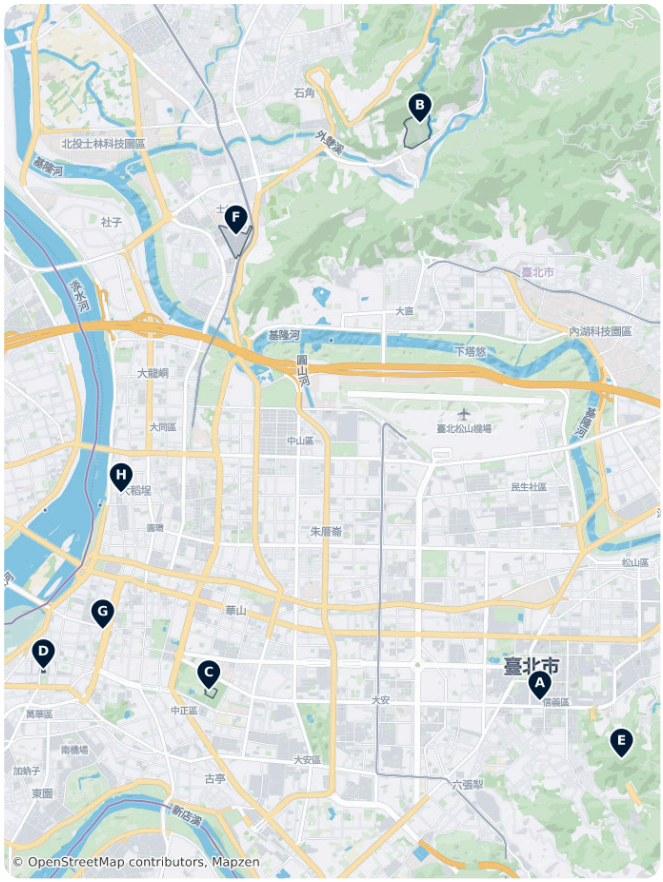
Plan around the Taipei Lantern Festival, held over two weeks after Lunar New Year, usually in February, when illuminated lantern displays and night markets take over public spaces and streets across the city.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 24° Feels like 16°	16° / 12°	16 rainy days
February	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 25°	17° / 12°	16 rainy days
March	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 27°	18° / 14°	18 rainy days · Humid air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 29°	21° / 17°	18 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 31°	24° / 21°	21 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	29° / 32° Feels like 34°	27° / 24°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	30° / 33° Feels like 35°	28° / 27°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	30° / 32° Feels like 34°	28° / 27°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	29° / 31°	26° / 24°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
October	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 29°	24° / 21°	15 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
November	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 27°	21° / 18°	17 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 25°	18° / 13°	16 rainy days

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Expect hot, sticky afternoons from May through September, when both humidity and rainfall peak.

Top sights



A Taipei 101 was the world's tallest building when it opened in 2004, and its indoor and outdoor observation decks still give the best overview of the city and the mountains around it.

B National Palace Museum holds one of the world's largest collections of Chinese imperial art, moved to Taiwan in 1949 and spanning thousands of years of dynastic history.

C Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is a monumental hall on Liberty Square, a good place to watch the changing-of-the-guard ceremony and learn about Taiwan's move from martial law to democracy.

D Longshan Temple is one of Taipei's oldest and busiest temples, founded by early Hoklo settlers and still active with daily worship.

Climb **E** Elephant Mountain for a short, steep hike to a viewpoint looking straight across at Taipei 101, popular at sunset.

F Shilin Tourist Night Market is the best known of Taipei's night markets, with food stalls, games, and clothing shops packed into a few covered lanes.

G Ximending is Taipei's youth culture hub, known for street fashion, live music, and some of the city's best street food.

H Old Storefront Buildings on Dihua St. preserves the look of an early-20th-century trading street, now home to shops selling dried goods, herbs, and fabric.

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What to experience

A few rituals are specific to Taipei and worth building time for.

- Soak in the sulfur-scented public baths of Xinbeitou Hot Springs, a hot spring district reachable by MRT in about 30 minutes.
- Ride the Maokong Area gondola over tea plantations and stop at a hillside teahouse for a pot of high-mountain oolong.
- Rent a YouBike and follow the riverside paths along the Keelung or Tamsui rivers at sunset, a popular local routine.

Day trips

Several worthwhile destinations sit within a couple of hours of Taipei by train or bus.



- A Tamsui District - about 40 minutes by MRT, a former trading port with a riverside promenade, an old fort, and sunset views over the river mouth.
- B Wulai District - about an hour by bus, an Atayal indigenous mountain village with hot springs and a waterfall a short walk from the old street; a cable car also climbs to a mountaintop resort with views over the falls.
- Jiufen - about 1.5 hours by bus, a former gold-mining town on a steep hillside, known for its narrow lantern-lit lanes and teahouses.
- Shifen - about 1.5-2 hours by train, known for releasing sky lanterns and for a wide waterfall a short walk from the old rail line.
- Yehliu Geopark - about 1-1.5 hours by bus, a rocky headland with wind- and wave-eroded rock formations, including the well-known Queen's Head.

Getting there

- **By air**: Most international flights land at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, about 40 km from the city center. The Airport MRT reaches Taipei Main Station in about 35-40 minutes; airport buses take longer but cost less. Taipei Songshan Airport, inside the city, handles domestic flights and a handful of short regional international routes, about 20 minutes from downtown by MRT.
- **By train**: Taipei Main Station is the hub for Taiwan High Speed Rail, reaching Taichung in about an hour and Kaohsiung in under two, plus the slower conventional rail network to the rest of the island. Taiwan High Speed Rail
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches from Taichung, Kaohsiung, and other cities arrive at terminals near Taipei Main Station.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: The Taipei Metro (MRT) covers most of the city and reaches the northern suburbs. Tap a contactless credit card or a phone wallet directly at the fare gate; an EasyCard, a rechargeable local transit card also usable on buses and YouBike, works the same way and can be topped up at any station or convenience store. Taipei Metro
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Metered taxis are common and easy to hail on the street; ride-hailing apps also operate alongside them.
- **On foot / cycling**: Central districts are walkable, and the YouBike bike-share system is dense enough to be a practical way to move between neighborhoods or ride the riverside paths.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Central districts are dense and walkable, with wide sidewalks and covered arcades in many neighborhoods.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The YouBike bike-share network is extensive and cycling is popular along the riverside paths, though city streets mix bikes with heavy scooter traffic.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No. Traffic, scooters, and limited parking make a car a burden in the city; the MRT and taxis cover everything downtown.
- **Parking**: Street parking is metered and scarce in the center; multi-story car parks near MRT stations are the easier option, usually paid by the hour.

Food & drink

Taipei's food culture centers on small, frequent meals rather than one big dinner. Breakfast is its own institution: queue with locals at Fuhang Soy Milk Breakfast for soy milk and savory flatbread, a Taipei classic.

For dinner, head to Raohe Night Market to graze stall to stall, or walk Yongkang Street for beef noodle soup, dumplings, and shaved ice shops packed into a few blocks.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Stinky tofu · 臭豆腐
Fermented tofu, deep-fried or grilled, known for its strong smell and mild taste.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pineapple cake · 鳳梨酥
A buttery pastry filled with tangy pineapple jam, a common souvenir.

Shaved ice · 剉冰
Fine shaved ice topped with fruit, beans, or condensed milk, popular in hot weather.

DRINKS

Bubble tea · 珍珠奶茶
Milk tea with chewy tapioca pearls, invented in Taiwan in the 1980s.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Beef noodle soup · 牛肉麵
Braised beef in a rich broth with wheat noodles, Taiwan's best-known comfort dish.

Oyster omelet · 蚵仔煎
Pan-fried eggs, oysters, and starch batter, a classic night-market plate.

Soup dumplings · 小籠包
Steamed dumplings filled with pork and hot broth, eaten with vinegar and ginger.

Braised pork rice · 滷肉飯
Minced pork stewed in soy sauce, served over steamed rice.

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Safety & health

Taipei is one of Asia's safer big cities for tourists, with low rates of violent crime. The main hazard is traffic: scooters weave between cars and can be hard to see when crossing at a corner, so use marked crossings and watch both directions even on a one-way street.

Petty scams are rare, but a few night-market stalls overcharge tourists who don't ask the price first. Taiwan sits on an active fault line, and small earthquakes are common; buildings follow modern seismic codes, so treat a mild tremor as routine rather than alarming.

History

Taipei began as a walled Qing-dynasty provincial capital in the late 19th century; North Gate of Taipei City Wall is one of the few gates that survived the Japanese colonial government's demolition of the walls in the early 1900s. Long before that, the Ketagalan people lived around the hot springs of Beitou, a history documented at the Ketagalan Culture Center.

The temple district around Longshan Temple marks the city's start as a Hoklo Chinese trading settlement called Bangka. A more recent chapter is visible at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, built after Chiang Kai-shek's death during decades of martial law; the surrounding square was renamed Liberty Square after Taiwan's transition to democracy.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Taiwan at a glance:

CURRENCY
TWD NT$

EMERGENCY
112

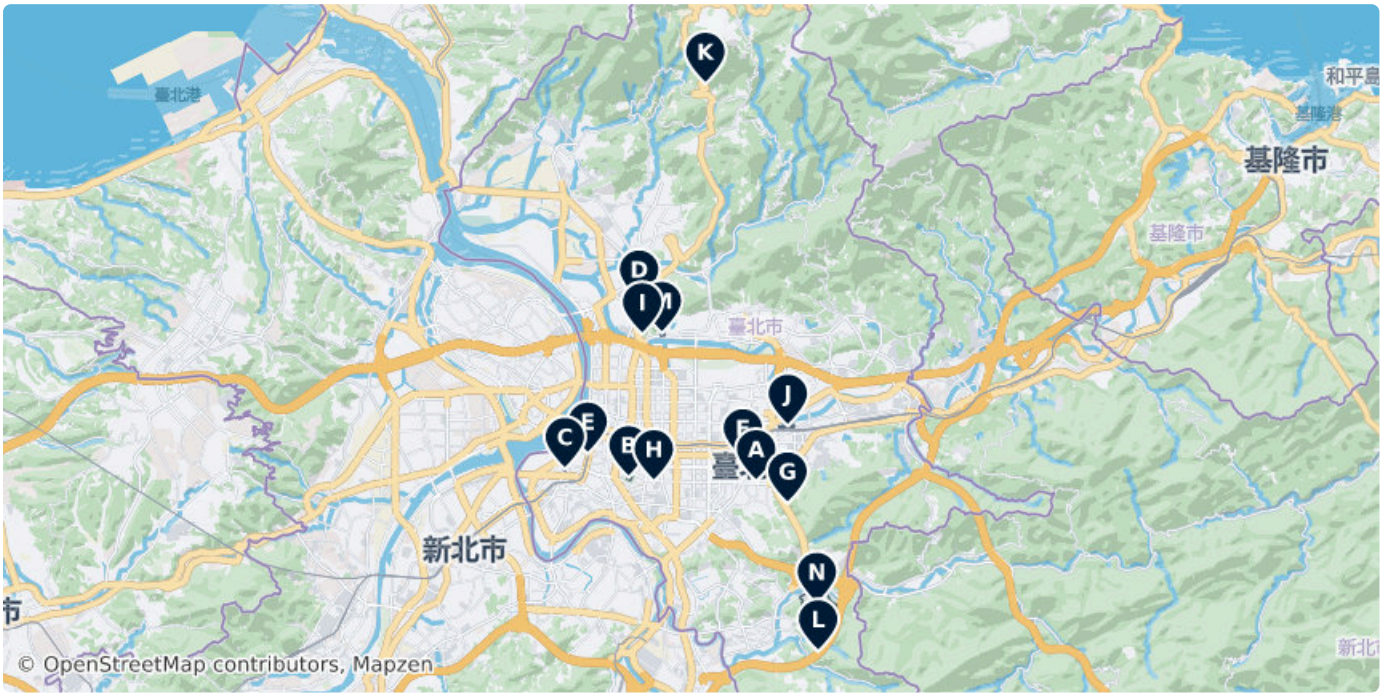
ELECTRICITY

Type A / Type B
110 V · 60 Hz

TAP WATER
Use caution

Taipei Essentials

Taipei's skyline is dominated by the bamboo-shaped Taipei 101, while its history is preserved at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and the 18th-century Lungshan Temple. The city's culinary scene revolves around the Shilin and Raohe night markets and the world-renowned soup dumplings at Din Tai Fung. Outdoor highlights include the volcanic landscapes of Yangmingshan National Park, the tea plantations of Maokong, and the Elephant Mountain hiking trail. Cultural landmarks like the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall and the palace-style Grand Hotel showcase architectural diversity alongside the sprawling Taipei Zoo.





Ⓐ Taipei 101

A huge skyscraper in the shape of a bamboo. It used to be the highest building in the world between 2004 and 2010.

信義路五段 7, 11049 臺北市, TW (25.03353, 121.56481)

Mo–Su 09:00–22:00

taipei-101.com.tw, +886 2 8101 8800

Ⓑ Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

A national monument featuring a white marble hall with a blue-tiled octagonal roof. The site houses a large bronze statue and hosts hourly changing of the guard ceremonies. It is flanked by the National Theater and National Concert Hall within a vast public plaza.

中山南路 21, 10048 臺北市, TW (25.03478, 121.52152)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

cksmh.gov.tw



C Lungshan Temple

Bangka Lungshan Temple is a Chinese folk religious temple in Wanhua District, Taipei, Taiwan.

No. 211, Guangzhou St, Wanhua District, Taipei City, Taiwan 10853 (25.03728, 121.49988)

Mo–Su 06:00–22:00

lungshan.org.tw, +886 2 2302 5162



D Shilin Tourist Night Market

The largest and most popular night market in the city. Join the locals and taste the amazing variety of Taiwanese snacks.

Jīhé Rd, Shihlin District, Taipei City, Taiwan 111 (25.08875, 121.52508)

Mo–Fr 16:00–24:00
Sa–Su 15:00–01:00

shilin-night-market.com



E Ximending

The first pedestrian zone in Taiwan, also called the "Harajuku of Taipei", this district is where all new fashion trends come to life and...

Taiwan (25.04200, 121.50764)



F Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

The National Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall is located in Xinyi District, Taipei, Republic of China.

仁愛路四段 505, 11073 台北市, TW (25.04001, 121.56029)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

yatsen.gov.tw, +8862 2758 8008



G Elephant Mountain

Xiangshan, also known as Elephant Mountain or Mount Elephant, is a mountain in Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Taiwan (25.02668, 121.57550)



H Din Tai Fung Xinyi

A restaurant which is famous for its pork filled soup dumplings. Some say that without tasting their dumplings, your trip to Taipei is not...

No. 194, Sec. 2 Xinyi Rd, 110 Taipei City, Taiwan (25.03352, 121.53010)

Mo–Fr	10:00–21:00
Sa–Su	09:00–21:00

+889 223218928



I Grand Hotel Taipei

The Grand Hotel is a landmark located at Yuanshan in Zhongshan District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Grand Hotel, Zhongshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan 104 (25.07871, 121.52614)

grand-hotel.org, +886 2 2886 8888



J Raohe Night Market

It is said that there are people who "Eat to Live" and those who "Live to Eat". People in Taiwan fall into the second category.

Ráohé St, Songshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan 105 (25.05056, 121.57559)

Mo–Su	17:00–00:00

getyourguide.com/taipei-l190/jioufen-... , +886 2 2763 5733



K Yangmingshan National Park

Yangmingshan National Park is one of the nine national parks in Taiwan, located in both Taipei and New Taipei City.

Taiwan (25.15562, 121.54758)

english.ymsnp.gov.tw/index.php, +8862 2861 3601



L Maokong Area

Maokong is an area located in Wenshan District of Taipei, Taiwan. The area used to be the biggest tea growing area of Taipei.

Taiwan (24.98122, 121.58584)



M National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine

The National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine is a Martyrs Shrine in Zhongshan District, Taipei, Taiwan, dedicated to the war dead of the...

北安路 139, 10462 臺北市, TW (25.07908, 121.53281)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

afrc.mnd.gov.tw/faith_martyr/index.as... , +886 2 2885 4376



N Taipei Zoo

Also known as the Muzha Zoo, this is the largest zoo in Asia, with origins dating back to 1914.

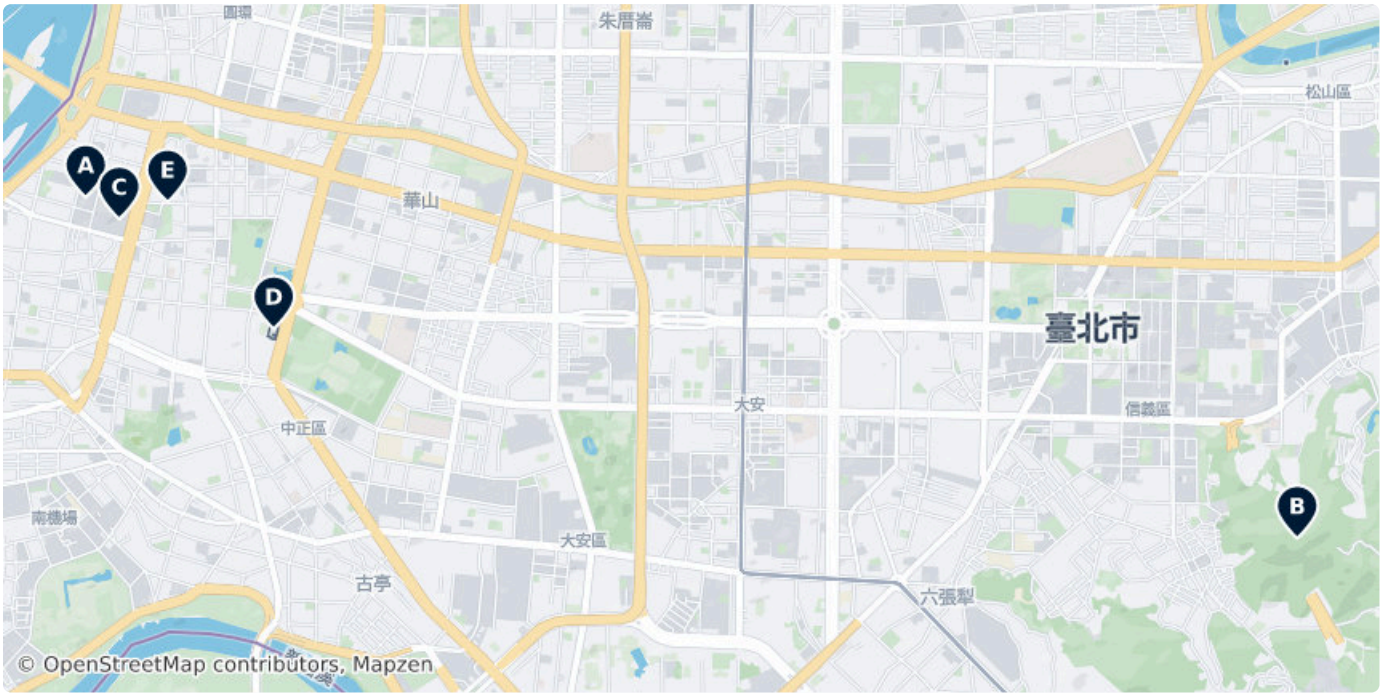
新光路二段 30, 116016 臺北市, TW (24.99581, 121.58542)

Mo–Su 09:00–21:00

zoo.gov.taipei, +886 2 2938 2300#630

Editor's Choice

This selection highlights Taipei's diverse urban landscape and culinary heritage. Hike the steep stairs of Elephant Mountain for panoramic views of the city skyline and Taipei 101. In the Ximending district, Ay-Chung Flour-Rice Noodle serves its signature bowls to standing crowds, while Modern Toilet offers a themed dining experience with seating modeled after bathroom fixtures. The list also includes the National Central Library's extensive research collections and Snow King Ice Cream, a historic shop established in 1947 known for unconventional flavors like pork floss and wasabi.





A Modern Toilet

Modern Toilet Restaurant is a unique toilet-themed restaurant chain, with three branches in Taiwan.

No. 9, Lane 50, Xining South Rd, Wanhua District, Taipei City, Taiwan 108 (25.04445, 121.50576)

moderntoilet.com.tw/en/about.asp



B Elephant Mountain

Xiangshan, also known as Elephant Mountain or Mount Elephant, is a mountain in Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Taiwan (25.02668, 121.57550)



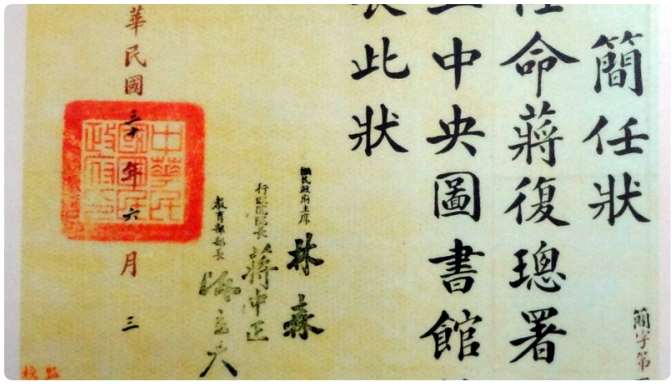
C Ay-Chung Flour-Rice Noodle

Established in 1975, this Ximending stall serves thin wheat noodles in a savory bonito-based broth with pig intestines. The venue is known for its standing-only service.

Emei Street, Wanhua District, Taipei 108004, Taiwan (25.04332, 121.50769)

Mo–Su	10:00–22:30

+886 2 2388 8808



D National Central Library

The National Central Library is the national library of the Republic of China, which is located at No. 20, Zhongshan S.

Zhongshan South Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei 10001, Taiwan (25.03759, 121.51657)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Sa	09:00–21:00
Su	09:00–17:00

ncl.edu.tw, +886-2-2361-9132



E Snow King Ice Cream

Founded in 1947, this family-run parlor offers over 70 handmade flavors. The menu features unconventional savory options such as pork floss, sesame oil chicken, and wasabi alongside traditional tropical fruits.

Wuchang Street Section 1, Zhongzheng District, Taipei 100501, Taiwan (25.04420, 121.51046)

Mo–Su	12:00–20:00

+886 2 2331-8415

Hidden Gems of Taipei

Taipei's lesser-known sites range from the sulfuric steam of Beitou's Thermal Valley to the volcanic slopes of Mt. Qixing, the city's highest peak. Cultural landmarks include the ornate Hsing Tian Kong Beitou Branch and the historic Taipei Tian Hou Temple in Ximending. For traditional flavors, Fuhang Soy Milk offers a glimpse into local breakfast culture with its wood-fired ovens. These locations highlight the intersection of geothermal activity, religious architecture, and culinary traditions away from the main tourist hubs.





A Beitou Hell Valley

The Thermal Valley is a valley located on the foothill of Yangmingshan National Park in Beitou District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Taiwan (25.13808, 121.51190)



B Hsing Tian Kong Beitou Branch

This Buddhist and Taoist temple complex features traditional Minnan-style architecture with red brick walls and ornate roof ridges. Set against a mountain backdrop, it provides a quiet alternative to the central city branch and is dedicated primarily to Guan Yu.

Taiwan (25.13726, 121.47754)

ht.org.tw, +886 2 2891 2731



C Taipei Tian Hou Temple

The Thean Hou Temple is a six-tiered temple of the Chinese sea goddess Mazu located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

No. 51, Chengdu Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China (25.04303, 121.50639)

+886223310421



E Mt. Qixing Main Peak

Qixing Mountain, also spelled Cising Mountain or Chihsing Mountain, is a mountain in Beitou District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Taiwan (25.17070, 121.55344)

D Fuhang Soy Milk Breakfast

Located on the second floor of Huashan Market, this establishment specializes in traditional Taiwanese breakfast. Signature items include thick soy milk and shaobing (clay oven rolls) baked in traditional charcoal ovens.

Zhongxiao East Road Section 1, Zhongzheng District, Taipei 10050, Taiwan (25.04421, 121.52477)

Mo–Su 05:30–12:00

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