



About Taipei



Geographical Position

Taipei, located in Taiwan's north, has an area of 271.8 sq. km, and is situated in a basin. Rich in leisure and recreation, cultural arts, heritage sites, and other attractions, it enjoys a superb geographical position and traffic environment.

Climate

Situated near the 25th parallel north, the city has a subtropical island climate influenced by its basin location. The Taipei summers and autumns are hot and humid, the springs and winters cool and mild, and there is clear differentiation between the four seasons. March to May generally marks the spring season, June ~ August summer, September ~ November autumn, and December ~ February winter.

History

In the 1500s Portuguese maritimers, the first Westerners to espy Taiwan, christened it Ilha Formosa, the "beautiful island." It were inhabited by numerous indigenous tribal peoples, then Han Chinese in great number from China's Fujian and Hakka from Guangdong provinces began to open land at the start of the 18th century. In the late 19th century Taipei was declared a prefectural capital and a walled city was built. Taipei became the island's leading center. Liu Ming-chuan was declared Taiwan's first Governor, and commenced a building program. This period was followed by the Japanese era and early Republican period, after the Nationalist government moved to Taiwan. Now over 130 years old, the city has a population of 2.7 million.

Transportation

Taipei has a comprehensive transportation network. The convenient MRT has five main lines and two branch lines, with 117 stations, and there are over 300 public-bus routes. It has four Taiwan Railways stations, and the railway network reaches all cities and counties. If you require rapid shuttling between Taiwan's north and south, the Taiwan High Speed Rail network provides a lightning-quick option. Songshan Airport, located in the city's heart, provides both domestic and international route services, giving visitors from around the world quick access to the city's core.



What you must do in Taipei



The American website BuzzFeed placed Taipei 20th on its 2015 list of "53 Beautiful Cities Everyone Should Visit at Least Once." As well, CNN.com listed Taipei among the top 10 cities in its "Which destination has the world's best food?" rankings. Here are the things you must do in Taipei.



Must-Visit

Unique Lanes and Alleys

Established more than 130 years ago, Taipei offers splendid works of classic architecture in different styles from different eras. This cultural-creative vitality extends down into its lively grids of lanes and alleys, where distinctive lane/alley cultures have emerged in each neighborhood. Examples: the chic fashion of the East District's lanes, artistic air of Zhongshan North Road's lanes, hot-spring culture of Beitou's lanes, youth-oriented pop chic of Ximending's lanes. All have become must-visit attractions with tourists.

Go to Dadaocheng, Dalongtong, and other old-city areas for glimpses of Taipei's glory and elegance over the past century. Beyond Cisheng Temple, Baoan Temple, and the many types of heritage architecture, feel the strong cultural-creative atmosphere. The Wen-Luo-Ting, Yongkang, Qingtian, and Longquan neighborhoods are home to a great many independent cafes and bookshops, where what is sold is not just coffee and publications, but rich cultural heritage as well.

Distinctive Humanistic Bookstores

Taipei also has a fascinating "book fragrance" culture. There are bookstores that stay open 24/7, international chain bookstores, independent bookstores, secondhand bookshops, bookstores selling antique titles and painting/calligraphy works, etc. These vividly display the Taipei people's love of knowledge and respect for book learning, and are delightful additions to the city's aesthetics.

Natural Landscapes and Trails

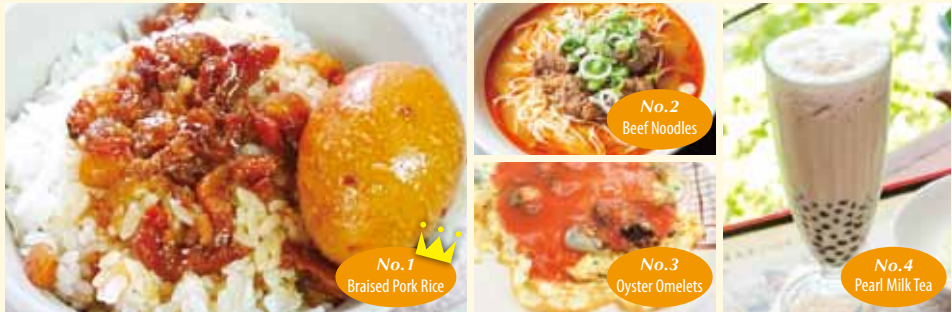
Surrounded by mountains, the city offers rich natural landscapes to explore. A prime example is Four Beasts Mountain, near Xinyi District, a great place for hiking and for taking in the spectacular Taipei 101 fireworks show each New Year's Eve. Beitou District's tourist-oriented hot-spring resort area and Shilin District's Yangmingshan National Park are grand places to embrace nature's beauties. Wenshan District's Taipei Zoo, Zhinan Temple, and Maokong Gondola, which whisks you to the Maokong tea-plantation/teahouse area, are fine spots to immerse yourself in natural scenic splendor and rich tea fragrance.



Must-Eat

Delicacies Recommended by CNN

For travelers who like good eating, Taipei is a foodie paradise. In CNN's 2015 report on a vote by travelers from around the world on their favorite Taiwan foods, braised pork rice was no. 1, beef noodles no. 2, oyster omelets no. 3, and pearl milk tea (bubble tea) no. 4. Other treasures on the list were *xiaolongbao* (steamed dumplings), pepper cakes, *shuijiao* (boiled dumplings), oyster vermicelli, stinky tofu, fried rice-flour noodles, Taiwanese sausage with sticky rice, *tian bu la* ("Taiwanese take on Japanese oden"), *runbing* (steamed spring rolls), tube rice pudding, thick cuttlefish soup, Dongshan marinated duck head, *rou yuan* ("meat balls"), chicken rice, salted crispy-fried ("popcorn") chicken, flaky scallion pancakes, "burned" grass (herbal) jelly, and mango ice act.. Each is a unique flavor-packed food of the common people, inexpensive and delicious.



Must-Buy

Pastries and Teas

Taipei is a city where the traditional and chicly ultra-modern co-exist in harmony. At many heritage shops the tried and tested-true ways of old are faithfully adhered to, the result one-of-a-kind specialty foods and handicrafts of great character. When in Taipei, travelers must not forego the chance to buy the internationally renowned local pineapple cakes, mung-bean cakes, nougat candies, meat jerky, and other souvenir items. The specialty *Tieguanyin* (Iron Goddess) and *Baozhong* teas from the Maokong tea plantations and Nangang Tea Processing Demonstration Center, in the city's rural outlying areas, are widely renowned premium teas that are must-buy choices with tea-afficionado travelers.



Cultural-Creative Gifts

Taipei is also a place of blooming cultural-creative vitality offering myriad innovative gift and souvenir items that will make people happy. Good examples are the Taipei City Government's "city image" souvenirs, such as its Discovery of Ximending puzzle and Taipei Classic Gift Boxes, melding traditional culture into everyday life. Ximending and Taipei 101 offer youth-focused trendy merchandise. These complement the deep impression left by the city's wonderful cuisine with visitors, providing them with gift purchases that give a cherished taste of Taipei's unique style and character.



Transportation Information



24-Hour Customer Service Hotline: (02)218-12345 **Website:** www.metro.taipei

Metro Tickets

Single-Journey Ticket	One-Day Pass	24hr Pass	48hr Pass	72hr Pass
NT\$20-NT\$65	NT\$150	NT\$180	NT\$280	NT\$380

EasyCard, iPASS



Each card costs NT\$100. Once the card is charged, it can be used immediately. The cards can be used to pay transport fares and can also be used as an e-wallet for small purchases at convenience stores and other designated shops, and pay for YouBike rental fee.

Taipei Pass



The Taipei Pass is activated upon first use on bus or metro ticket readers and valid for unlimited use till expiration. The Taipei Pass can be purchased at all Metro stations, and is used on the Taipei Metro and on Taipei and New Taipei City public buses (with Taipei Pass stickers showing).

One-day pass: NT\$180 / Two-day pass: NT\$310
Three-day pass: NT\$440 / Five-day pass: NT\$700
Maokong Gondola One-day pass: NT\$350



24-Hour Customer Service Hotline: (02)218-12345 **Website:** www.gondola.taipei



Tel: 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 5855 or (02)8978-5511

Website: www.youbike.com.tw **Service Hours:** 8:00~20:00

MRT Taipei City Hall Station Service Center (outside Exit 3): 2, Songren Rd., Taipei City

MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station Service Center (outside Exit 5): Ln. 56, Sec. 1, Xinsheng S. Rd., Taipei City (B1)

MRT Jiannan Road Station Service Center (outside Exit 2): 798, Belan Rd., Taipei City (2F)

Blue Highway

Taipei Department of Transportation: www.dot.gov.taipei

Taipei River Cruise Mini Trip Website: www.riverfun.net (For detailed information about cruises, please contact the boat companies.)



Start/End Points: MRT Beitou Station – Zhuzihu

Website: www.taiwantrip.com.tw



"Taipei WiFi Alliance" Free Internet Access

Download the Taipei WiFi Alliance APP and immediately start using your account for single-entry access to the alliance's 9,000 free wireless Internet areas. Individuals with an existing Taipei Free account can also sign in the APP to utilize the new network resources. Taipei WiFi Alliance hotspots include: Taipei City Hall, the city's 12 administrative district centers, the city public library and branch libraries, all branches of Taipei City Hospital, Taipei Metro stations and underground shopping malls, and other indoor public spaces, along with major city thoroughfares, major residential and commercial areas, areas of dense concentrations of people, and other outdoor public spaces, as well as such locations as ATT 4 FUN, Cama Café, Pacific SOGO Department Store, Taipei 101, FamilyMart convenience stores, SPOT-Huashan arthouse cinema, Miramar Entertainment Park, Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Stores, and Shin Kong Cinemas branches.

Local Calls Toll-Free Hotline: 0809-091-919

Mobile Phone Paid-Call Hotline: (02)7745-5429

※ Taipei Visitor Information Centers can assist foreign tourists with their Taipei Free account applications (bringing Taipei WiFi Alliance Free Internet Access). Service times and sites are subject to change; please check TRAVEL.TAIPEI service (www.travel.taipei/en) for official up-to-date information.



Taipei Visitor Information Centers

Plum Garden Visitor Center	(MAP A-1)	Add: 6, Zhongshan Rd., Taipei City (near The Beitou Garden Spa) Tel: (02)2897-2647
MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center	(MAP A-1)	Add: 1, Guangming Rd., Taipei City (left side of station entrance) Tel: (02)2894-6923
MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center	(MAP A-4)	Add: B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd., Taipei City (near Exit No. 5) Tel: (02)2375-3096
Dadaocheng Visitor Center	(MAP A-4)	Add: 44, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City (Walk for around 9 minutes along Tacheng St. from MRT Beimen Exit No. 3) Tel: (02)2559-6802
MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center	(MAP B-3)	Add: 65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City (near Exit No. 1) Tel: (02)2883-0313
Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center	(MAP B-4)	Add: 3, Beiping W. Rd., Taipei City (southwest area of Main Hall on 1F) Tel: (02) 2312-3256
Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center	(MAP C-3)	Add: 20, Jingye 3rd Rd., Taipei City (in rear of fountain plaza, 1F) Tel: (02)8501-2762
Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center	(MAP C-4)	Add: 340-10, Dunhua N. Rd., Taipei City (Arrival Hall, Terminal2) Tel: (02)2546-4741
MRT Taipei 101 / World Trade Center Station Visitor Information Center	(MAP C-5)	Add: B1, 20, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd., Taipei City (near Exit No. 5) Tel: (02)2758-6593
Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Center	(MAP D-7)	Add: 35, Ln. 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd., Taipei City (near exit of Maokong Station) Tel: (02)2937-8563

※ Visit the online TRAVEL.TAIPEI service (www.travel.taipei/en) for official up-to-date information on Taipei Visitor Information Center facilities.

Taipei Tourist Night Markets

Yansan Tourist Night Market	(MAP A-4)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Daqiaotou Station, walk toward Sec. 3, Yanping N. Rd., about 5 minutes
Xichang Street Night Market	(MAP A-5)	Transportation: From Exit 3 at MRT Longshan Temple Station, walk along Xichang St., about 5 minutes
Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market	(MAP A-5)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Longshan Temple Station, walk toward Huaxi St., about 5 minutes
Wuzhou Street Night Market	(MAP A-5)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Longshan Temple Station, walk toward Wuzhou St., about 5 minutes
Guangzhou Street Night Market	(MAP A-5)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Longshan Temple Station, walk toward Guangzhou St., about 5 minutes
Nanjichang Night Market	(MAP A-5)	Transportation: From Exit 2 at MRT Ximen Station, walk toward Sec. 2, Zhonghua Rd., about 25 minutes
Shilin Tourist Night Market	(MAP B-3)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Jiantan Station, walk straight ahead and cross Wenlin Rd., about 5 minutes
Dalong Street Night Market	(MAP B-3)	Transportation: From Exit 2 at MRT Yuanshan Station, walk toward Dalong St., about 10 minutes
Shuangcheng Street Night Market	(MAP B-4)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Zhongshan Elementary School Station, walk toward Shuangcheng St., about 5 minutes
Ningxia Tourist Night Market	(MAP B-4)	Transportation: From Exit 5 at MRT Zhongshan Station, walk toward Ningxia Rd., about 8 minutes
Liaoning Street Night Market	(MAP B-4)	Transportation: From Exit 2 at MRT Nanjing Fuxing Station, walk along Liaoning St., toward Zhongxing High School, about 4 minutes
Linjiang Street Tourist Night Market	(MAP C-5)	Transportation: From Exit 4 at MRT Xinyi Anhe Station, walk along Tonghua St., about 10 minutes
Jingmei Night Market	(MAP C-6)	Transportation: From Exit 1 at MRT Jingmei Station, walk toward Jingmei St., about 5 minutes
Raohe Street Tourist Night Market	(MAP D-4)	Transportation: From Exit 1 or Exit 2 at MRT Songshan Station, and walk toward Raohe St., about 3 minutes



Currency (New Taiwan Dollar)

The official currency is called the New Taiwan or NT dollar. The currency code is TWD, and it is commonly abbreviated as NT\$ or NTD. The base unit is the *yuán*.

Coinage denominations: NT\$1, NT\$5, NT\$10, NT\$20, NT\$50

Banknote denominations: NT\$100, NT\$200, NT\$500, NT\$1,000, NT\$2,000



Travel Information Services

Taipei Citizen Hotline: 1999 (Outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889)

Taipei Travel Net: www.travel.taipei, Presents travel information on Taipei City in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish; provides recorded-audio tour guide on related sightseeing spots, and a hotel information data base.

TaiwanStay: taiwanstay.net.tw (Info on legally registered hotels and guesthouses)

Travel Information / Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communication: 0800-011-765, www.taiwan.net.tw

Toll-free complaint hotline / Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communication: 0800-211-734

Information for Foreigners in Taiwan: 0800-024-111

