Sea of Lanterns Radiance, Romantic Warmth
Taipei Old City, Gorgeously Transformed
Taipei Welcomes the Lunar New Year
Grand Old-City Style

The Lunar New Year is fast approaching, the celebratory air more electric. All the necessary traditional New Year goodies are being bought. From the New Year’s Eve family-reunion feast to the Lantern Festival 15 days later, Taipei revels in a unique carnival-like atmosphere.

In this issue’s Fun Taipei theme tours, visit Dihua Commercial District for New Year Shopping Carnival and enjoy the great range of groceries, hawker cries, and bustling New Year atmosphere. This year the annual Taipei Lantern Festival is going to be held in the west district of Taipei for the first time; this is a great chance to take part in a traditional festival. Let’s start from the old city’s rich history and vivid life stories, discovering the beauty of old Taipei and this city’s new charms as well.

Taipei Citizen Hotline: 1999 (Outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889)
Taipei Travel Net: travel.taipei/en, Presents travel information on Taipei City in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish; provides recorded-audio travel introductions on related sightseeing spots, and a hotel information data base.

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Yu-Yen Chien
Commissioner
Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government
Taipei’s west district is a transportation hub with Beimen at its center. Walk along Section 1 of Zhonghua Road, through the Ximending and Bangka areas, and you are immersed within a rich treasury of humanities and history, heritage sites, cultural-creative arts, and good food. The Taipei Lantern Festival is being held here in February this year, making this district even more bustling than usual.

Lantern Enjoyment Around Section 1 of Zhonghua Road

Section 1 of Zhonghua Road runs along one side of busy Ximending Commercial District. In days gone by the buildings of the bustling Zhonghua Plaza were located here. The market was torn down in 1992 as part of urban-renewal plans and metro construction needs, and part of the businesses moved to nearby spots, coalescing in commercial clusters such as “A/V Electronics Street.”

The venue for the 2017 Taipei Lantern Festival, being held February 4-12, is the stretch of Zhonghua Road, Sec. 1 from Zhongxiao West Road to Guiyang Street, and the adjacent Ximending area. The Main Display Area will be around MRT Ximen Station. There will be a Light Sculpture Area (North Gate, Zhongshan Hall), Universiade Interactive Area, Landscape Creativity Area, a “sea of lanterns,” and numerous theme-lantern areas. Other draws will be a Student Creativity Area in the plaza in front of Zhongshan Hall and a Freestyle Creativity Area at Xibenyuan Temple. Taipei’s west district will dazzle the eye even more than usual!

Beimen (North Gate)

Originally called Cheng En Gate, this once was the key portal from the old walled city leading to Dadaocheng. Outer walls covered with red brick, it is the only remaining gate in Taipei with its south Fujian city-gate style still preserved. During this year’s Taipei Lantern Festival the gate will be illuminated by a colorful light show combining historic site and modern technology.

Location: Intersection of Zhongxiao W. Rd., Yanping S. Rd., and Bo’ai Rd.

2017 Taipei Lantern Festival

Time: 2/4 (Sat.) - 2/12 (Sun.)
Main Venue: Beimen (North Gate) Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd. (from Zhongxiao W. Rd. to Guiyang St.)
Tel: 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 3369
Website: 2017.lanternfestival.taipei/en

Taipei Old City, Gorgeously Transformed

The area surrounding Taipei Main Station has rich historical assets from the Qing Dynasty, the Japanese era, and the early republican era. It is on the city’s west side, the area commonly called the “old city.” In recent times, Taipei’s urban landscape rebuilding plan has brought new dynamism to myriad heritage facilities, as well as heightened appreciation of the architecture, businesses, cultural life, and local food treats in these old neighborhoods. Head out on a romantic and charming old-city mini-tour as the Taipei Lantern Festival is staged this year for the first time in the Beimen (North Gate) / Sec. 1, Zhonghua Road area.

Sea of Lanterns Radiance, Romantic Warmth

Taipei’s west district is a transportation hub with Beimen at its center. Walk along Section 1 of Zhonghua Road, through the Ximending and Bangka areas, and you are immersed within a rich treasury of humanities and history, heritage sites, cultural-creative arts, and good food. The Taipei Lantern Festival is being held here in February this year, making this district even more bustling than usual.
Beimen Camera Commercial District

Located near Beimen in the Bo’ai Road/Hankou Street area, this is Taiwan’s densest cluster of photography-equipment shops, many in business for decades. Everything is stocked in this treasure trove for photo buffs, from traditional and digital cameras to lenses and peripherals.

Location: Intersection of Bo’ai Rd. and Hankou St.

New Zhonghua Road A/V Electronics Street

Goods sold on this road, near Beimen, include TVs, audio equipment, earphones, speakers, karaoke systems, home theater systems, bedside stereos, and much else. The quality is premium and the range of famous brands comprehensive, providing great treasure-hunting for A/V enthusiasts.

Location: Around Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd.; Sec. 1, Hankou St.; Yanping S. Rd.; and Sec. 1, Kaifeng St.
Website: avstreet.tw

STAYREAL

STAYREAL, on Wuchang Street, is a brand combining trends, fashion, creativity, and artistry. Founded by Ashin from Taiwan’s popular rock band Mayday, this shop has everything from jeans, T-shirts, and backpacks to bracelets and mobile-phone straps. The styling gives buyers a rock-and-roll look with street punk elements.

Add: 1F, 85-4, Sec. 2, Wuchang St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2371-9511

ReCHIC Design+Clothing Gallery

Located on Ximending’s American Street, the owner-designer of this boutique has a passion for fashion culture. In addition to self-design clothing, works by other leading Taiwanese designers are also sold, including fashionable avant-garde clothing and accessories well received by customers.

Add: 14, Lane 96, Kunming St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2314-7030

Xibenyuans Temple

This Pure Land Buddhist temple was built during the Japanese era. The temple was severely damaged by fire in 1975 and the city government has expended much effort restoring and transforming it into a cultural-arts and leisure space. The Japanese architectural features of the Eighty-Eightea Rinbansyo teahouse have been faithfully maintained. Enjoy fine teas and good foods here.

Add: 174-1, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd., Taipei City

Hahatoy

This long-established Ximending shop has more than 2,000 kinds of props in stock, with everything from festival-celebration materials to costume-party and magic-show accessories. The owner is an enthusiastic prankster and provides product explanations and trial services at the shop.

Add: 2F, 21, Sec. 2, Wuchang St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2361-8801

Versammeln Pottery Studio

This creative workshop brings together pottery, painting, calligraphy, and other art forms. DIY pottery courses are offered, and self-created ceramics, works by well-known masters, and antique porcelain are on display and for sale. Coffees, teas, desserts, and light foods are also served at the studio.

Add: 62-5, Sec. 2, Kaifeng St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2388-5218 (Closed on Monday, advance reservation required for DIY pottery experience)
**Specialty Cafés & Fine Cuisine**

**Kyomachi no. 8**
This café is located in a heritage building brimming with Japanese characteristics. The café’s name refers to Bo’ai Road’s former name during the Japanese era – Kyomachi Road. Enjoy coffees, teas, salads, and French-style quiches, as well as irregularly staged cultural-arts lectures, exhibitions, and performances.

*Add: 8, Bo’ai Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2381-2388*

**Zheng Ji Pork Knuckles on Rice**
This eatery has been crafting tasty treats for over 60 years. Most popular here are the pork knuckles, Dongpo pork, and deboned milkfish. The pork knuckles, with perfectly balanced lean/fat and bone removed, is braised for three full hours in an aged soy-based marinade. The delicious creation is free of greasiness, with skin chewy and meat soft and tender.

*Add: 22, Yanping S. Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2371-1366 (Closed on Sunday)*

**Cho café**
This café is on the first floor of the CHO Hotel. Using secondhand furniture and mottled wooden boxes a space with an air of nostalgia and chic fashion has been created. Coffee and tea are offered, along with paninis, mochi waffles, cheese waffles, and more.

*Add: 119, Kunming St., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2312-1113 (Closed on Wednesday)*

**Meet Desserts**
The owner-couple loves desserts, so they opened this spot to create their own flavors. Hot and cold sweet treats are both offered, including cold chewy "roast" mochi, adzuki bean purple rice porridge, collagen-rich white fungus soup, lemon-flavored red-algae jelly (carrageenan), and shaved-ice.

*Add: 11, Yanping S. Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 5596-4288 (Closed on Sunday)*

**Armed Forces Museum**
This three-floor museum has displays focused on the history, artifacts, and weapons of different periods of the national military. There are also irregularly held special exhibitions. Book a guided tour on the official website, or use the free audio guides (Mandarin, Taiwanese, English, and Japanese), for in-depth understanding of the armed-forces history.

*Add: 243, Sec. 1, Guyang St., Taipei City  Website: museum.mnd.gov.tw  Tel: (02) 2331-5730 (Closed on Sunday and the second and fourth Saturday every month)*

**Getting there:** Take MRT Songshan-Xindian Line (Line 3) to Beimen Station (Exits 1 or 2); or take MRT Bannan Line to Ximen Station (Exits 1, 2, or 6) to or to Longshan Temple Station (Exits 1 or 3).
Dihua Street Commercial District

Shopping for the New Year

In the past, Dadaocheng was a wholesale district for Chinese herbal medicines, groceries, and fabrics. Today it serves as a window into the elegance of old Taipei. Come for the busy Taipei Lunar New Year Festival, where everyone is buying their New Year goods before the holidays. Savor the district’s great foods and fine coffees, and its deep, rich history and culture.

Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

Dihua Street has long been a favorite place to go for Lunar New Year shopping. Its heyday was the late Qing Dynasty through Japanese era, when grocery stores and tea shops predominated. Since Taiwan’s Restoration in 1945 it has become a wholesale distribution center for groceries, Chinese herbal medicines, and fabrics. Still retaining its historical look, it is festooned with red lanterns, while the large crowds of shoppers create a raucous, festive atmosphere each Lunar New Year period.

Location: Around Sec. 1, Dihua St.

Yongle Fabric Market

Established in 1908, this market’s predecessor was a Japanese-built public market for the sale of foodstuffs and small goods near the Dadaocheng wharves. Rivercraft would deliver cotton, hemp, silk, satin, and other fabrics, and it slowly became a dedicated fabric market. Today’s 100-plus shops sell myriad fabric types and styles, providing great treasure-hunting for handicraft lovers.

Add: 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2556-8483

Walkingbook

Walkingbook is a composite four-story café, restaurant, and cultural-arts space, which was home to the Daan Hospital in the Japanese era. The interior-design concept is “home.” On the separate floors are a living room/café/bar, Mediterranean restaurant, reading room, and private studio. Each floor has the feel of a rich cultural base.

Add: 33, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2558-0915

ASW TEA HOUSE

This teahouse is inside the heritage building built for Taiwan’s first Western-style pharmacy, the A.S. Watson & Co. building. The “ASW” in the teahouse name honors this heritage. The teahouse is run by three designers from different fields. The interior design fuses British character with a library ambience. From the teahouse you can see Yongle Fabric Market and busy Dihua Street.

Add: 2F, 34, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-9913

San Coffee

This café is in a heritage building that once housed the first coffee shop opened by a Taiwanese before WWII, the Wei Te Coffee Shop. Today coffee fragrances are back. Coffees produced in Taiwan are sold, and the café works with farmers to improve cultivation and processing. It does its own roasting and packaging and aims at promoting coffee from Taiwan.

Add: 1, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-8680

fflavour

The old Western-style buildings on both sides of Dihua Street stand shoulder to shoulder. One of them is fflavour, a chic retailer of unique culture and aesthetics that is like an art gallery of fruit. It serves as a sales platform for fruit growers where seasonal fruits and natural jams are offered. Seats are also offered for people who want to try the fruit platters, juices, and shaved-ice treats.

Add: 199, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2557-6763
Nearby Specialty Shops

Qin Jing Old Warehouse
Hidden away among the residential buildings beside Dadaocheng Park, measuring only about 10 square meters, this place is stocked full of nostalgia items. The majority are Taiwan daily life necessity items, along with toys, photos, records, etc., and every corner bursts with treasure surprises and Taipei historical memories.
Add: 153, Minle St., Taipei City
Tel: 0921-067-050 (Closed on Sunday)

Gao Jian Bucket Shop
This 60-year-old shop is the oldest bucket business on Dihua Street. In the doorway hang bamboo-woven utensils, and rows of wooden pails and buckets are neatly lined up. The store also now sells bambooware and wood-made daily necessities. The friendly prices and nostalgia-laden air bring many local and foreign tourists.
Add: 204, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2557-3604

Les Vieilles Choses
Though not big, this store sells a wide world of antiques, from Han Dynasty pottery figurines to blue-and-white porcelains from the Tang, Song, Ming, and Qing dynasties. The owner specially sources reasonably priced old-time daily-use utensils for customers to consider while enjoying the distinctive artistic ambience.
Add: 524, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: 0979-501-915 (Closed Tuesday to Thursday)

Ni Hao Wo Hao
This indie art gallery, opened by Japanese writer Yuka Aoki, showcases premium Taiwanese and Japanese items and fosters cultural-arts interchange. Each month, Japanese artists who want to know more about Taiwan are invited to Taipei, and record the Taiwan seen through their eyes using their respective artistic mediums, giving others new perspectives.
Add: 45, Liangzhou St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2557-6665 (Closed on Wednesday)
Website: www.btpbtp.com

Shang Qian Yuan Ginseng Medicine Shop
"Shang Qian Yuan" is a ginseng medicine shop opened by the third generation of a family that opened the original shop "Qian Yuan" in 1875. In recent years the shop has added new innovations, such as ready-to-use takeaway vacuum bags and herbal-preparation packages that customers can conveniently use as ingredients for cooking at home.
Add: 42, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-6669 (Closed on Sunday)
The Taipei Main Station rear area and Huayin Street were Taipei’s earliest commercial district formed for general merchandise wholesale/retail. You’ll find clothing, leather goods, cosmetics, imported foods, daily-use goods, and much else. The affordable prices complement the incredible diversity. Businesses come here to buy in bulk, and many tourists make special shopping trips. For folks keen on handicrafts and DIY, this district is also not to be missed!

Echoing today’s DIY health and beauty care wave, this area’s shops selling raw materials and bottles/jars have seen a big surge in female customers. A full range of ingredients and storage/packaging choices is on offer. Many of what originally were wholesale-based businesses have transformed into retail stores.

The main offerings of this area’s shops are leather goods, luggage, clothing, and accessories. This is Taiwan’s largest wholesale distribution center. Young women, especially, are drawn by the fantastic range of adornments. Most everything can be found at surprisingly low prices.

Offering customization services, the retro styling of this bike shop has made it a cycling-lover favorite. Everything from frame, paint job, wheels, and handlebars can be custom-crafted, creating the bike of a customer’s dreams. Also sold are stylish biking attire and designer accessories.

For all kinds of festival celebration items, this is the place to go! The area is renowned for festival-related gift shops, including those selling items for Halloween, Christmas, and both the Western and Chinese New Year. Also, note that there are a number of specialty toy stores well worth visiting.

Add: 30, Lane 69, Sec. 1, Chengde Rd., Taipei City
Tel: 0960-125-111
A Design & Life Project

Everything here exudes unique charm, from goods to space. There are antique and vintage collector items from Europe and America, plus such house-brand daily-use items as attractive, high-quality storage boxes and bags that are much in demand.

Add: 278, Nanjing W. Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-9908


Nostalgic Future

This retro-style sundry-items shop is filled with items collected by the owner-couple over 20 years. The merchandise, from around the world, includes retro toys, vintage clothing and bags, etc. Sales of designer goods are also irregularly held, and DIY-experience classes are offered.

Add: 2F, 16-2, Lane 64, Nanjing W. Rd., Taipei City
(Closed Tuesday to Thursday)


Wildflower Bookstore

Down a quiet lane off Chengde Road, this bookstore is also a café. The preponderance of art books and other unique selections is matched with an eclectic décor, with an overall calming ambience. In addition to the coffees and teas, specialty desserts and limited-quantity dinner choices are offered.

Add: 7, Lane 69, Sec. 1, Zhengde Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-9908


Drifter

This is a leather-goods design studio where DIY craftsmanship is emphasized in every step, from cutting and sewing to trimming, preserving traditional processes and made-in-Taiwan production. All kinds of bags are crafted, personalized orders are accepted, and fun DIY leather ware classes are also offered.

Add: 1F, 13, Lane 41, Sec. 1, Chengde Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2555-9150 (Closed on Sunday and Monday; advance reservation required for DIY courses.)


LungTi Studio

This place specializes in tin sculptures and carvings. The classical, refined, gorgeous creations evoke medieval European traditions. LungTi offers courses that make the seemingly difficult into easy-to-understand, enjoyable work, leading you through the steps needed to create cardholders, storage boxes, and other attractive, useful items.

Add: 3F, 60, Chang’an W. Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2550-8899 (Advance reservation required for DIY courses.)


Bear Mama DIY

Beads, fabric cuts, felt, wool – you name the handicraft item, they’ve got it. In addition to bulk materials, the range of materials packages is wide, with easy instructions conveniently supplied to make your handicraft creation a breeze.

Add: B1, 30, Sec. 1, Chongqing N. Rd., Taipei City
Tel: (02) 2550-8899 (Advance reservation required for DIY courses.)

Getting there: Take MRT Songshan-Xindian Line (Line 3) to Beimen Station (Exit 3); or take MRT Tamsui-Xinyi Line (Line 2) or Bannan Line (Line 5) to Taipei Main Station (Exits Y13, Y15).
Taipei’s convenient new double-decker sightseeing bus service is going to be launched. There will be two routes. The Red Route takes in Taipei 101, Huashan 1914 Creative Park, etc. The Blue Route takes in the Shilin Official Residence, National Palace Museum, etc. There is onboard Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean audio-guide information.

Red Route

Ministry of Audit
MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Sta.
Dinghao Market
MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Sta.
MRT Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Sta. (Zhongxiao)
MRT Taipei City Hall Sta.
Songshan Rd. Entrance

Taipei 101
This skyscraper is Taiwan’s most iconic landmark. In the mall at its base are global-brand boutiques and premium restaurants. The entire city can be taken in at a glance from the 89th-floor Observatory.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall
A dazzling work of Tang Dynasty palace-style architecture, this multifunctional complex has a national-caliber performing-arts auditorium, art gallery, exhibition rooms, and lecture halls. The hall has a rich program of shows and exhibitions.

Yongkang Commercial Area
Near MRT Dongmen Station, this area is renowned for its unique shops and diverse dining, such as Din Tai Fung’s xiaolongbao, noodle dishes at Yong Kang Beef Noodles, and shaved ice with mango. The neighborhood also has many cafés of character.

Huashan 1914 Creative Park
This is a key development base for Taipei’s cultural-creative industry, with facilities for meetings, exhibits, and performances. There is also a creative weekend market and irregular outdoor concerts. It is a splendid showcase of local cultural-creative artistic dynamism.
In the area around MRT Zhongshan and Shuangliian stations are many pleasant spots providing patrons with many surprises, including SPOT-Taipei Film House, quality hotels, and restaurants. Down the side alleys are countless specialty clothing shops, etc. 

Taipei Expo Park

This park encompasses grassy areas, wide concourses, and exhibit spaces, where visitors can enjoy cultural-arts performances plus quality eating and shopping. There’s also a lively farmers’ market each weekend with first-rate local produce on sale.

National Palace Museum

The NPM has approximately 690,000 cultural treasures in its collection, most from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, including paintings, sculptures, books, and other precious artifacts. This is a must-visit spot when in Taipei.

Information

Tel: (02) 8791-6557 ext. 6006
Website: www.taipeisightseeing.com.tw
Headway: One bus every 30-40 min. (For departure and arrival times of buses on each route, please visit the official website.)
Payment: cash, Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, JCB), EasyCard, iPASS Card, China UnionPay, Alipay and WeChat Pay

Tickets:
- Day: NT$500 (unlimited rides on Red Line 9am to 6pm, on Blue Line 9:00-10:00)
- Night: NT$400 (unlimited rides on Red Line 6pm to 10pm)
- Two days: NT$1,200 (to be used during hours of operation on two consecutive days)

Website: www.taipeisightseeing.com.tw
Fuzhou First Xinli Restaurant
The emphasis here is on the use of ultra-fresh ingredients, with a focus on sweet/sour tastes and soups. The classic dish here is "Phoenix over Noodles," light in taste with silky, tender texture. Made with chopped sections of thin silk noodles, tasty savory pork floss is added for richer flavor. The "Seafood Rice Noodles," rich in crab, shrimp, clam, and Fuzhou-style fishballs, has a delicious soup stock.
Add: 85, Longjiang Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2771-2088

Bolero
Bolero is a Western-style restaurant with a long, rich history. The signature dish is "French Duck Rice," the meat fried and then stewed. Soft and tender, it's served with a delicious thick sauce made with sautéed onion, dried bamboo shoot, and mushroom. The "Pork Chop Curry Rice" features meat plump and crispy, the slightly spicy, aromatic curry invariably exciting your taste buds!
Add: 314, Minsheng W. Rd., Taipei City (main restaurant)  Tel: (02) 2559-9903

Ambassador Hotel – Szechuan Court
Opened 50 years ago, the "Sichuan Pepper Preserved Egg" here is a famed signature offering. High-quality Taiwan Songhua preserved eggs are doused with Zhenjiang vinegar, chili oil, then sprinkled with white sesame, tender ginger, and green onion. The "Sichuan Bo Bo Chicken" consists of a Taiwan range-chicken leg with black fungus, Sichuan pepper powder, bamboo shoot, and white sesame.
Add: 63, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2551-1111

Jimmy’s Kitchen
The dining concept here is the traditional "Beitou Banquet." The focus is on the freshest ingredients, light tastes, and "improvements" of Taiwan flavors, presenting new-style Taiwanese cuisine. The most popular menu item is the fluffy, savory "Scrambled Egg with Dried Radish." The signature "Pan-Fried Pork Liver in Soy Sauce," crispy outside and succulent inside, goes excellent with rice.
Add: 10, Lane 105, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2551-7957

Formosa Chang
Established in 1960, the Formosa Chang chain started as a stall on Minsheng West Road near Shuangliu Market. Its signature braised pork on rice features tender meat soy-brained six hours. Accompany this with such treats as crisp egg tofu and spicy mushroom chicken soup for a true simple Taiwan-flavor meal.
Add: 62, Ningxia Rd., Taipei City  Tel: (02) 2556-9489

The Wondrous Flavors of Taipei Over the Last Half Century
Taipei has a rich food culture, with new local and international culinary options in constant supply. At the same time, all Taipei neighborhoods offer myriad options for authentic old-time foods, where over the years the most beloved spots have perfected the most memorable tastes and services. In this issue we present 6 spots that have satisfied people for 50- plus years, inviting you to experience Taipei’s history and culture along with the wonderful flavors.
In recent years there has been great change in local gift cake and pastry offerings, in both flavors and packaging. Refinement and heightened delicacy have been brought to traditional items, and many brands have incorporated innovative design concepts, making Taiwan treats more eye-catching. In this issue, we have selected 6 creative bakeries for your gift-purchase consideration.

**Lee’s Cake**

Lee’s Cake has combined tradition and innovation, using the auspicious “turtle” shape, symbol of peace and long life, in creative “peace turtle” cakes. Made by hand using traditional methods, fresh-made peanut powder and black sesame seed is used, with probiotics added. Mildly sweet, the cakes are tasty and refreshing.

*Store: Lee’s Cake (Main store: 309, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Taipei City)*
*Tel: (02) 2557-8716*
*Web: lee-cake.com*

**Signature Mung Bean Paste Cakes**

These cakes are made with mung bean paste, with a liberal dose of red jujube and maltose added. The ingredients are slow-boiled for water evaporation, and the red jujube adds flavor richness, with the fine, dense skin adding to the pleasant texture.

*Store: Florida Bakery*
*(1F of Taipei Main Station, 3, Beiping W. Rd., Taipei City)*
*Tel: (02) 2311-1189*
*Web: www.bread.com.tw*

**Oneness Food Handmade Nougat Candy**

This candy, free of any artificial additives, is made with all-natural flavors, including mango, green mango, pineapple, macadamia nut, almond, and cranberry. The milky richness and fruit medley brings great joy to palates.

*Store: Oneness Pineapple Cake*
*(5F of Taipei 101, 7, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd., Taipei City)*
*Tel: (02) 8101-8155*
*Web: www.onenessfood.com*

**Longan Walnut Cakes**

Select longans from the Dongshan area in Tainan are soaked in yogurt, and fermentation yeast is used to bring out the rich fruity flavor. The soft longan is paired with crunchy walnut to create a filling of distinctive taste and texture, your experience heightened further by the fragrant, crispy shell.

*Store: KT Bakery (53, Sec. 3, Chongqing N. Rd., Taipei City)*
*Tel: (02) 2596-1901*
*Web: kt-bakery.com.tw*

**Iconic images of Taipei such as the Taipei Metro and Taipei 101 are imprinted on these attractive cookies, which are mellow and crispy. The package design features imagery of the North Gate (Beimen), the only old city gate still possessing its original appearance. While eating the cookies you also get to travel back into Taipei history, making these a great gift and souvenir choice.**

*Store: PRESENT@TAIPEI (No. 1, City Hall Road / Located to left inside Main West Gate at Taipei City Hall)*
*Tel: 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 3391*

**Well-known designer Aaron Nieh designed the Kuo Yuan Ye 150th anniversary gift box, with its look of elegant simplicity. Inside, the upper layer features double-flavor cakes made with adzuki bean/matcha and peanut/black tea. The lower layer has black-sesame cakes, sesame-oil mung bean cakes, and pearl milk tea nougat. These gift boxes are a lovely display of this heritage shop’s continuing creativity.**

*Store: Kuo Yuan Ye (1F, 546, Wenlin Rd. Taipei City)*
*Tel: (02) 2831-3422*
*Web: www.kuos.com*
Leisure & Arts Taipei

**Blossom Leisure Farm** perfectly complements the farm’s tea-drinking delights. The grand apricot blossom bloom at the Apricot Blossom Leisure Farm, located along the Camphor Tree Trail, swaying like strings of wind chimes in its lupin flower bloom from early to late March. Lupin flowers color the Maokong’s pretty apricot blossom bloom is from early to late February, delighting. In concert with the 2017 Taipei Universiade being hosted in the city in August, the Discovery Center of Taipei is holding the “Ready to Go! Bravo!” Special Exhibition. Taipei Universiade mascot Bravo, the bear is part of the exhibition and there are special displays on star athletes and interactive multimedia as well as virtual-reality and other high-tech fun showcasing the individual competitions, venues, athletes’ village, and more, including a simulated visit to Bravo’s home. This will show all Universiade participants that Taipei is ready to go, and set to step on the starting line.

2017 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival
- Commercial districts of Dadaocheng, Ningxia, Huayin Street, Taipei Main Station rear area, Rongbin, and Taipei City Mall
- 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 6490
- www.facebook.com/ntown
ttc

The theme for this year’s festival is “Reunion,” and the goal is to share the unique Spring Festival atmosphere and the many wonderful flavors and experiences enjoyed by the Chinese people with all traveler friends and the rest of the global family. In addition to the annual bazaar of New Year groceries in different commercial districts, enjoy Dihua Street’s regional groceries shops and decorative displays highlighting New Year in different countries, art-experience activities and street performers in Yongle Plaza, multi-language guided tours and postcard-sending fun, immersing visitors from all places in the lively, colorful New Year experience.

2017 Taipei International Comics & Animation Festival
- Hall 1, Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center (1, Jingmao 2nd Rd., Taipei City)
- (02) 2797-9559
- www.ccpa.org.tw/tica

This extremely popular comic and animation extravaganza is staged in the Taipei World Trade Center’s Nangang Exhibition Center. You’ll find everything: comic books, anime, novels, picture books, figurines, and limited-edition collectibles. The most exciting events are the fan meetings and autograph sessions with local and foreign cartoonists, writers, and voice actors.

Maokong Lupin & Apricot Blossom Season
- Camphor Tree Trail, Apricot Blossom Leisure Farm
- (02) 2759-3001, 2937-8959

Maokong’s pretty apricot blossom bloom is from early to late February, its lupin flower bloom from early to late March. Lupin flowers color the hills along the Camphor Tree Trail, swaying like strings of wind chimes in a splendid visual feast. The grand apricot blossom bloom at the Apricot Blossom Leisure Farm perfectly complements the farm’s tea-drinking delights.

**2017 Yangmingshan Flower Season**
- Yangmingshan Park and surrounding area
- (02) 2861-2247
- pkl.gov.taipei

In spring the slopes of Yangmingshan burst into brilliant floral bloom, the mountain-cherry blossoms, azaleas, camellias, and peach blossoms opening in succession. This year, in addition to flower enjoyment at Yangmings Park, Qianshan Park, the Horticultural Experimentation Center, and other locations, there are also floral-theme guided tours, a street-parade carnival staged by local schools, and weekend/holiday musical performances by the well-known Flower Clock. The use of public transport is strongly recommended.

2017 Taipei Azalea Festival
- Da’an District, Zhongzheng District

The azalea, Taipei’s official city flower, is the star of this grand event welcoming in the new spring. March is azalea season, and azalea showcase areas around the city, including those of the annual National Taiwan University Azalea Festival, Daan Forest Park, Xinsheng South Road, and the Museum of Drinking Water are being tied together with local commercial districts. There will be concerts and a series of marketing promotions solidifying the “Taipei, city of azaleas” brand image. Visitors from near and far are invited to come enjoy the floral beauty and great music, Taipei’s azaleas sure to thoroughly charm you.

2017 Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival
- Zhuzihu, Yangmingshan
- 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 6592
- www.callalily.com.tw

The theme for this year’s festival is fairy tales. In addition to the popular annual calla-lily landscape design exhibit, there will be coordination with other scenic spots in the area, calla-lily farms, special scenic trails, eco and culture guided tours (free), and eco-agriculture experience activities (for a fee). Enjoy the fun of picking calla lilies and get to know Zhuzihu’s ecology/culture beauty. (Advance booking for experience activities is required.)

2017 Tour de Taiwan – Taipei City Stage
- Taipei City Hall → Songgao Rd. → Ren’ai Rd. (tree-lined boulevard) → Dihua S. Rd. → Circle → Jingfu Gate → (turn back onto Ren’ai Rd.) → Songgao Rd. → Taipei City Hall
- (07) 355-6978
- www.tourdetaiwan.org.tw

The great annual Tour de Taiwan will kick off in Taipei on March 26. In this stage racers will circle the city, starting out from Taipei City Hall, going around Jingfu Gate (East Gate), and returning to the starting point. The city will also be hosting the Summer Universiade in 2017, and the Taipei Cycle exhibition will be running March 21-25 at Taipei World Trade Center. Together these three events are further stimulating Taipei’s sport and exercise culture. The Tour de Taiwan is not only a sports competition but also a tourist draw, presenting an opportunity for Taipei to promote the city’s beauty and give people around the world a good look at the hard and soft power of the local bicycle industry.
**Art Calendar**

**National Palace Museum**
- Permanent Exhibition: Limpid Radiance – A Special Exhibition of Glass Artifacts from the Museum Collection
- Until - 2/26
- The Art and Aesthetics of Form: Selections from the History of Chinese Painting

**National Museum of History**
- Until - 2/12
- Pixar 30 Years of Animation
- Until - 3/5
- Experience the Stone Arts: ShouShan Stone Carving Exhibition

**National Taiwan Museum**
- Until - 2/12
- Turning Wheels – Bicycle and Daily Life in Taiwan

**EXPO Dome, Taipei Expo Park**
- Until - 2/26
- Despicable Me – The Evil Studio
- Until - 2/26
- Hello Kitty Go Around!

**Sin Hong Choon Trade Co.**
- Until - 2/28
- Special Exhibition: Sin Hong Choon Trade Co. – Returning to the glory days of old tea shops at Dadaocheng

**Taipei Fine Arts Museum**
- Until - 3/5
- Line of Vision – The Photography of Wang Hsin
- Until - 3/19
- Taipei Arts Awards

**Huashan 1914 Creative Park**
- Until - 3/19
- Gaspard et Lisa Exhibition
- Until - 4/9
- teamLab: Dance! Art Exhibition, Learn & Play! Future Park

**Taipei World Trade Center Halls 1 & 3**
- Until - 1/16
- 2017 Taiwan New Year Market Fair
- 2/8 - 2/13
- 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition

**Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall**
- 1/12 - 1/16
- 2017 Taiwan New Year Market Fair
- 2/8 - 2/13
- 2017 Taipei International Book Exhibition

**Songshan Cultural and Creative Park**
- Until - 3/12
- Kumamon Exhibition
- Until - 3/12
- 45th Anniversary Exhibition of Mazinger Z
**Metro Taipei**

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

### Metro Tickets

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<tr>
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<th>Single-Journey Ticket</th>
<th>One-Day Pass</th>
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<th>48hr Pass</th>
<th>72hr Pass</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Cost</td>
<td>NT$20 – NT$65</td>
<td>NT$180</td>
<td>NT$280</td>
<td>NT$380</td>
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### EasyCard, iPASS Card

Can be purchased at MRT station service desks and convenience stores. After adding value they 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

Scan this card over sensors in public buses and MRT station gates, during the period of validity, enjoy unlimited rides on the Taipei Metro system, Taipei Joint Bus System, and New Taipei City municipal buses (buses with Taipei Pass stickers affixed). Sold at all Taipei MRT stations.

### Maokong Gondola

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

### YouBike Public Bicycles

**Tel:** 1999 (outside Taipei City, please dial (02-2720-8889) ext. 5855 or (02) 8978-5511  **Website:** www.taipeisightseeing.com.tw

### 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.)

### Tourist Info

**FUN TAIPEI**

- One-day pass NT$180
- Two-day pass NT$310
- Three-day pass NT$440
- Five-day pass NT$700

**Taipei MRT Map**

**One-Day Pass**

- NT$150
- NT$180
- NT$310
- NT$440
- NT$700

**Maokong Gondola One-day pass**

- NT$350

**Taipei Double-Decker Bus**

**Tel:** (02) 8791-6557 ext. 6006  **Website:** www.taipeisightseeing.com.tw

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**Taiwan Tourist Shuttle – Beitou Zhuzihu Route**

**Start/End Points:** MRT Beitou Station – Zhuzihu  **Website:** www.taiwantrip.com.tw

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WESTSIDE STORY
TAIPEI GLORY

2017
TAIPEI
LANTERN FESTIVAL

Venue | North Gate \ Sec.1, Zhonghua Rd.

Sat. 2/4 ~ 2/12 Sun.

Lighting Ceremony  
2/4 Sat. 18:00-19:30
MRT Ximen Station

West Side Carnival Parade  
2/11 Sat. 18:00-19:30
In front of Taipei Fuxing Elementary School (Near MRT Beimen Station)

Closing & Awards Ceremony  
2/12 Sun. 19:00-20:30
MRT Ximen Station