


Local information

Wikimania 2007 Taipei :: a Globe in Accord

 English • Deutsch • Français • Italiano • 日本語 • Nederlands • Norsk (bokmål) • Português • 中文 (正體/简体) • Help translation

Taipei is the capital of Republic of China, and is the largest city of Taiwan. It is the political, commercial, media, educational and pop cultural center of Taiwan.

According to the ranking by Freedom House, Taiwan enjoys the most free government in Asia in 2006. Taiwan is rich in Chinese culture. The National Palace Museum in Taipei holds world's largest collection of Chinese artifacts, artworks and imperial archives.

Because of these characteristics, many public institutions and private companies had set their headquarters in Taipei, making Taipei one of the most developed cities in Asia. Well developed in commercial, tourism and infrastructure, combined with a low consumers index, Taipei is a unique city of the world.

You could find more information from the following three sections:

Local Information

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2. Health and safety - Information regarding your health and safety: where to find medical help.
3. Financial - Financial information like banks and ATMs.
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5. Units of measurement - Units of measurement used by local people.
6. Electricity - Information regarding voltage.
7. Embassies - Information of embassies in Taiwan.
8. Time - Time zone, business hours, etc.
9. Communications - Information regarding making phone calls and get internet services.
10. General Conversation - General conversation tips.

1.
 - For further information: Customs of The Republic of China TEL:+886-2-25505500 ext.2116
 - For further travel information: Tourism Bureau of The Republic of China TEL:+886-2-2349-1500




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1. Geography - Location of Taiwan and Taipei city.
2. History - Brief history of Taipei.
3. Attractions - Attractions of Taipei.
4. Religions - Religious information in Taipei.
5. Food - Gourment food you can enjoy.
6. Stores - Let's go shopping.
7. Media - Media and news sources.
8. Museums - Museum around Taipei city.

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 - For further information: Customs of The Republic of China TEL: +886-2-25505500 ext.2116
 - For further travel information: Taipei Travel Net TEL: +886-2-2720-8889



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Taipei is served by Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (IATA:TPE). Please do not get confused with the local airport Taipei Songshan Airport. (IATA: TSA)



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3. To Venue - How to get to the venue.
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5. EasyCard - Information regarding EasyCard.
6. Driving - Local driving information.
7. Street addresses - How to read street address.
8. To other parts of Taiwan - Travel information to other cities of Taiwan.

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Wikitravel also has guides about Taiwan

- Taiwan
- Taipei, covering the entire city
- Taipei/Shilin, covering the district where the conference is held

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Local information 2: Weather

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Climate

Taipei has a subtropical climate, meaning that it can be quite hot and humid. Here are the statistical temperature recordings for the month of August in the past three years:

- Average daily temperature: 29C (85F)
- Daily max temperature: 33C (92F)
- Daily min temperature: 27C (80F)

Umbrellas may be purchased for NT\$60-NT\$100 at local convenience stores. Most buildings and all forms of public transportation are air-conditioned. Besides summer clothing, bring a light jacket just in case the air-conditioner gets too cold.

Typhoons

See [Health, safety, and Accessibility](#).

Earthquake

See [Health, safety, and Accessibility](#).

Forecast

Weather forecasts for Taiwan can be found at the following sites:

- [The ROC Central Weather Bureau](#)
- [CNN.com Weather](#)
- [BBC Weather Centre](#)
- [Yahoo! Weather](#)

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Local information 3: Health and safety

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- 7 Health Care and Medical Emergencies
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Disasters

Typhoons

Typhoons (颱風) or tropical storms visit Taiwan between June to October. While typhoons should never be taken lightly, Taiwan's Central Mountain Range does shield Taipei from much of the dangerous winds if the typhoon enters Taiwan from the southeast and moves through Taiwan in a northwest direction. Consult Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau for typhoon trackings. Taiwan's only English-language station, ICRT FM100, also provides emergency typhoon announcements.

Earthquake

Taiwan is located on part of the seismically active Ring of Fire, meaning that it is prone to earthquakes. The last major earthquake to strike Taiwan was September 21, 1999, in which more than 2,000 people died.

When an earthquake occurs, hide under a strong table or brace yourself against a door frame. If you are outside, go to an open field without trees or electric power lines.

Diseases

Dengue

The southern part of Taiwan has recently been hit by a new Dengue epidemic. The symptoms are the same as influenza's. No known treatment exists.

Vaccinations

The Taiwan Center for Disease Control requires people from outbreak areas abroad to fill a questionnaire form. Taiwan is a rabies free country.

Drinking water

Tap water in Taipei and Taiwan is treated, but it should be boiled before drinking.

Pedestrian crossings

Taipei is famous for its pedestrian signal, which consists of a timer and a green walking man. As the timer approaches zero, the walking man walks frantically faster.



Certain intersections permit diagonal pedestrian crossings; this is usually indicated by a gigantic X pathway on the intersection and by the fact that the pedestrian signals in both directions simultaneously turn green.

Be aware that cars and motorcycles often do not respect a pedestrian's right of way.

Accessibility for people with disabilities

Taipei does not provide excellent facilities for those with physical disabilities. People on wheelchairs or crutches may feel frustrated when crossing the streets or navigating through obstacle-filled sidewalks. However, Taipei's MRT metro system does provide elevators, fare gates, ramps, restrooms, and special riding space for those with physical disabilities.

Emergency numbers

- Fire: dial 119.
- Police: dial 110.
- Ambulance: dial 119.
- English operator: 106
- English-speaking Police: 2556-6007 (add 02 in front of the number if dialing outside of Taipei City, Keelung, or Taipei County)
- Taiwan Adventist Hospital (considered foreign-friendly): 2771-8151 (add 02 in front of the number if dialing outside of Taipei City, Keelung, or Taipei County)
- International Community Service Hotline, National police Agency, Ministry of Interior: 0800-024-111 (toll free)



Health Care and Medical Emergencies

Most doctors speak some level of English. Larger hospitals usually have English clinics.

The following is a partial list of hospitals in Taipei. More information about health care in Taiwan can be found at the American Institute in Taiwan's health care web page.

- The Taipei City Hospital System

Branch hospitals all over the city.

- National Taiwan University Hospital (台大醫院)

7 Zhong Shan S. Rd., Taipei (中山南路7號)

Located near the MRT National Taiwan University Hospital Station

Telephone: 2312-3456

- Cathay General Hospital (國泰醫院)

280 Ren Ai Rd, Sec. 4., Taipei (仁愛路4段280號)

Telephone: 2708-2121

- Tri-Service General Hospital (三軍總醫院)

325 Cheng Gong Road, Section 2, Nei Hu District, Taipei (成功路2段325號)

Telephone: 8792-3311

Outpatient care only: 40 Ding Zhou Rd., Sec. 3, Taipei (汀州路3段40號)

Telephone: 2365-9055

- Cheng Hsin Hospital (振興醫院)

45 Zheng Xin St., Shih Pai, Taipei (振興街45號)

Telephone: 2826-4400

- Wan-Fang Hospital (萬芳醫院)

111 Xing Long Rd, Section 3, Taipei (興隆路3段111號)

Located next to the MRT Wanfang Hospital Station

Telephone: 2930-7930

- Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital (慈濟醫院)

289 Jianguo Rd., Xindian City, Taipei County (台北縣新店市建國路289號)

Telephone: 6628-9779



Foreign Affairs Police Units

Contact information for various foreign affairs police units may be found at this site.

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Local information 4: Financial

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Currency and foreign exchange

The New Taiwan Dollar (NTD, NT\$, or TWD; Chinese: 新台幣) is the official currency of the Republic of China administered territories of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu. The banknotes are in denominations of \$2000, \$1000, \$500, \$200, \$100; notes of \$2000 and 2000 are rarely seen. The coins are in denominations of \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$1, and \$0.5; coins of \$20 and \$0.5 are rarely seen.



For more information about Taiwan's currency, consult the following web pages of The Central Bank of China: [NTD notes](#), [NTD coins](#), and [security features](#).

Many local banks have foreign exchange services. The most representative and reliable banks are the Bank of Taiwan (or Taiwan Bank/臺灣銀行) and the ICBC (中國國際商銀, now merged into Mega International Commerical Bank). You can also exchange your money at the front desk of most hotels.

There are around 15 currencies that can be exchanged at the Bank of Taiwan. This includes the US dollar, Hong Kong dollar, UK Pound, Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, Singapore dollar, Swiss franc, Japanese Yen, Swedish krona, New Zealand dollar, Thai Baht, Philippine peso, Indonesian rupiah, Euro, and Korean Won. Consult <http://www.bot.com.tw/English/BusinessUnits/Domestics/default.htm> for a list of Bank of Taiwan branches nationwide.

Both terminals of the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TTIA) have foreign exchange kiosks. For more information, visit the TTIA website.

The latest exchange rate may be found at XE.com.

Banks to exchange foreign currency

English addresses as provided by the respective bank's official website are listed here. The

Hanyu Pinyin address and the Chinese address are given in parenthesis.

Taipei Fubon Bank	50, Chung-Shan (Zhongshan/中山) N. Road, Sec. 2, Taipei	02-25425656
Land Bank of Taiwan	46 Kuanchien (Guanqian/館前) Road, Taipei 100	02-23483456
Bank SinoPac	36, Nanking (Nanjing/南京) E. Road, Sec. 3, Taipei	02-25063333
Taiwan Cooperative Bank	77, Kuanchien (Guanqian/館前) Road, Taipei	02-23118811
First Bank	30, Chung-Ching (Chongqing/重慶) S. Road, Sec.1, Taipei	02-23481111
Chang Hwa Bank	27, Chung-Ching (Chongqing/重慶) S. Road, Sec.1, Taipei	02-23617211
Hua Nan Bank	38, Chung-Ching (Chongqing/重慶) S. Road, Sec. 1, Taipei	02-23713111
Cathay United Bank	65, Kuan-Chieng (Guanqian/館前) Road, Taipei	02-23125555
The Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank, Ltd.	2, Ming-Chuan (Minquan/民權) E. Road, Sec.1, Taipei	02-25817111
Mega International Commercial Bank	123, Sec. 2, Jhongsiao (Zhongxiao/忠孝) E. Rd., Jhongheng (Zhongzhen) District, Taipei City 100, Taiwan	02-25633156
Bank of Taiwan	120, Chung-Ching (Chongqing/重慶) S. Road, Sec. 1, Taipei	02-23493456
CitiBank	117-1, Sec. 3, Minsheng (民生) E. Rd., Taipei	02-27155931

Credit/debit/ATM cards

In Taipei, most department stores, chain bookstores, chain supermarkets/hypermarkets, and many restaurants accept credit cards. However, some shops, such as the electronics/computer stores of the Guanghua Market, may impose an extra 5% to 8% surcharge because the price they offer does not cover the credit card transaction/commission fee. VISA and MasterCard are the most accepted cards. Only a few shops accept American Express, Diner's Club, or JCB.



The debit card is seldom applicable in Taiwan and is not recommended at all unless it can act like a VISA or Mastercard.

Many ATM booths (自動櫃員機), located near the entrances of banks and post offices, offer

24 hours service. You can also find ATMs in many chain convenience stores: just check out the special signs outside the stores. Most of the ATMs in Taiwan offer a bilingual menu in Chinese and in English. Unless you have an ATM card issued by a Taiwanese bank, you will be charged a service fee by the bank who owns the ATM.

Sales tax and refund

Taiwan uses a national receipt system for all purchases, called the Uniform Invoice Receipt (統一發票). A five percent hidden sales tax applies to all brick and mortar establishments. Unless you qualify for a sales tax refund, please deposit your Uniform Invoice Receipt into a charity receipt donation box. This is because the government holds a bimonthly lottery based on the receipt's serial number.



Tipping

Except for hotel services, tips are not necessary or expected in Taiwan as there is usually a ten percent service charge added.


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Local information 5: Regulations and Customs

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Prohibited or limited items

Arrival

False statement or failure to declare the following at Customs shall be punished in accordance with the Customs Preventive Law.

The following are those needing declared

- Baggage exceeding a total value of NT\$20,000(or NT\$10,000 for those under 20)
- Alcohol and tobacco exceeding the following limitations:
 - 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 1 pound of tobacco
 - 1000cc of alcohol (traveller under 20 cannot carry these items)
- Unaccompanied baggages
- Foreign currency exceeding US\$10,000 in value; gold exceeding US\$20,000 in value.
- All animals, plants, aquatic life or products thereof must be handed over to quarantine immediately (a failure to do so will result in a fine of between NT\$30,000 and NT\$150,000. Those that do not pass quarantine regulations shall be destroyed or returned by shipment)
- Passengers must declare import of NT Dollars exceeding NT\$60,000.
- You may also have the interest to know that there do exist a limitation of the latest Nintendo game console, Wii. One person could only carry two sets of Wii when arriving Taiwan. That is because of the limitation of total value of NT\$20,000 as listed above.

The following are prohibited

- Counterfeit currencies, securities, bank bills and forging equipment.
- Fresh fruit and meat.
- Firearms, bullets, explosives, poison gas, swords, and any other weapons.
- Narcotics, including cocaine, marijuana, and opium poppy seeds.
- Live wild animals, or products made from protected species.

Departure

The following are those needing declared while leaving the R.O.C.(Taiwan)

- Foreign currencies exceeding US\$10,000 in value
- NT Dollars exceeding NT\$60,000
- Gold exceeding US\$ 20,000. All gold taken out of the R.O.C.(Taiwan) must be declared at Customs.

The following are prohibited

- Narcotics
- Illegal copies of audio and video cassettes, VCDs, DVDs and software.
- Antiques, antique coins, and antique paintings.
- Firearms (including those for hunting, air guns, and fishing harpoons), bullets, explosives, poison gas, swords, and any other weapons.

For more information, consult DGC, Taipei Customs Office or Directorate General of Customs

If you are travelling on China Airlines or EVA Air flight, then you would find clear information about Customs regulations in the inflight magazine or Duty Free brochures.

Minimal age for consumption of alcohol and smoking

No one under eighteen may purchase alcohol or tobacco. Taiwan does not have as strong of a beer culture as the United States.

Smoking in public space

Buses, the MRT Metro system, fast food restaurants, and most family-oriented establishments provide a smoke free environment.

Plastic shopping bags

Major grocery, convenience, and drug stores are prohibited from providing plastic shopping bags unless you pay a NT\$1-2 penalty per shopping bag. Additionally, clerks and cashiers will assume that you brought an environmental bag. Bakeries and restaurants are exempted from this rule.

Pets

Pets from rabies-infested countries need to endure a minimum 21 day quarantine. Those from rabies-free countries need to present a health/quarantine certificate and may need to undergo some period of quarantine. Pets placed in special strollers (similar to baby strollers), miniature kennels, or bags as well as guide dogs are tolerated in most public places, including the metro system. Make sure to bring bags and tissue paper if the pet relieves itself on the sidewalk or you will be fined. Pets in Chien Tan Youth Center, etc?

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Local information 6: Units of measurement

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Units of measurement

The metric system is used in Taiwan. Speed limits, highway markers, and speedometer information are given in kilometers.

- Distance/lenght
 - Centimeter (公分)
 - Meter (公尺 or 米)
 - Kilometer (公里)
- Volume
 - Liter (公升)
- Weight
 - Gram (公克)
 - Kilogram (公斤)
 - In produce markets, Taiwanese weighing units are also used. One *tai jin* or simply *jin* (台斤 or 斤) is equivalent to 600g. In Taiwanese/Hokkien, this unit is called *kin*.

Clothing sizes may be scaled to suit East Asians; therefore, always try the clothing on before purchasing it.

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Local information 7: Electricity

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Electricity

Electricity is supplied at 110 Volts with a frequency of 60 Hertz. Taiwan uses power plugs and sockets that are equivalent to either the Type A/NEMA 1-15/2-pin or Type B/Nema 5-15/3-pin standard, which generally means that appliances from North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Japan can plug into Taiwan's electrical sockets.

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Local information 8: Embassies

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Embassies

In order to placate the Government of the People's Republic of China, most countries have only friendly, unofficial, de-facto relations with the Taiwan-based Republic of China. This means that most countries only maintain an "institute", "commercial office", "friendship association", "economic and trade office" and so on in Taiwan, which all function as de-facto embassies. Most of these representative offices provide full consular services as any other embassy or consulate in the world, meaning that one should contact these offices if one gets in trouble in Taiwan. Nevertheless, these representative offices have no diplomatic status and enjoy no extraterritoriality.

On a side note, the former US ambassador's residence as well as the former British Consulate have become tourist attractions in Taipei. See Attractions.

List of Embassies or Missions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China provides a list of embassies or missions in Taiwan. If you need to contact with the embassy or mission of your country, please call by phone or visit the mission's website first to confirm the address.

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Time zone

Taipei and Taiwan are located in the UTC+8 time zone. Daylight saving time or summer time is not observed.

Sunrise and sunset times

Please refer to this [page] for sunrise and sunset time during conference.

Business hours

- Government: 8:30am-12:30am, and 1:30pm~5:30pm on weekdays. All closed on weekends.
- Post office: 8am-5pm on weekdays. Most offices are either closed or provide limited services on weekends.
- Banks: Most closed at 3pm. However, China Trust and Cosmos Bank extend their business hours to 7pm.
- Other Businesses: Usually 8:30/09:00am-17:30
- Stores: 10:00/11:00am -21:00/ 22:00pm Open almost everyday except for the Chinese Lunar New Year.
 - Department stores: 11am-9:30pm
 - Convenience stores: 24 hours (except for some stores in MRT and TRA stations); Taiwan has the world's highest density of convenience stores.
 - Drug stores: Varies; Most are about 8am-11pm
 - Grocery stores: Varies; Wellcome Supermarket has a few 24-hour stores.

Most museums are closed on Monday; however, the National Palace museum is open every day of the year.

Public holidays

No public holiday will fall during the Wikimania event.

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About Taipei 2: Geography

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Taipei is the capital of Republic of China and the largest city on Taiwan an island some 120 kilometers (75 miles) off the southeastern coast of China in East Asia. The island of Taiwan is about 390 kilometers long from north to south and 140 kilometers from east to west; the East China Sea lies to the north, the Philippine Sea to the east, the Luzon Strait to the direct south, the South China Sea to the southwest, and the Taiwan Strait to the west.

Taipei City is located in the Taipei Basin in northern Taiwan and is bordered on the south by the Xindian River , and the Tamsui River on the west. The northern districts of Shilin and Beitou extend north of the Keelung River and are bordered by Yangmingshan National Park .

Because of its location in a valley, the city commonly experiences high temperatures and humidity during the summer months, a problem enhanced by the high population density and the use of air conditioning. The climate is subtropical.

The area covered by the Taipei City limit is ranked 16 of 25 of all counties and cities in Taiwan.



Location of Taipei in East Asia.

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About Taipei 3: History

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History

400 plus years

The history of Taipei can be traced back roughly 5000 to 7000 years. The original inhabitants of both Taiwan and Taipei are the Austronesian peoples. Some Austronesian tribes were believed to have lived in what is now Yuanshan during the New Stone Age and Shihshanhang during the Iron Age.

Among those Austronesians, the original inhabitants of Taipei were the Ketagalan tribe who was eventually driven into assimilation and extinction by Han Chinese settlers from Fujian Province in the 18th century. The avenue leading to the Presidential Office is named in memory of the Ketagalans.

Approximately four hundred years ago, the Taipei basin was mainly ignored marshland. The Dutch, who established Taiwan's first colonial administration, had Tainan (literally "Taiwan South") as the capital. The first official administrative institution governing the Taipei basin might have been the Spanish as they wanted to extend their trade network to Japan and China. In the 1620s, the Spaniards established Fort San Domingo in the now Taipei County township of Danshui (Tamshui). They choose northern Taiwan because the Dutch had already established themselves in southern Taiwan. Needing an outpost to assist their trade monopoly with isolationist Japan, the Dutch took over the Fort just a few years later.

Ming dynasty

Just a few years after coming to Danshui, the Dutch were ousted by Koxinga, who was a Ming Dynasty loyalist fleeing from the fledging Qing Dynasty. For the first time in its history, Taiwan was truly controlled by a Han Chinese government. However, the capital of the Ming Dynasty loyalist kingdom was in Tainan. Twenty-six years later, the Qing Dynasty toppled the Ming remnant and annexed Taiwan. Taiwan became a prefecture of Fujian province with Tainan as the prefecture's capital.



Trade eventually developed along the Danshui River that runs through the Taipei basin, resulting in the establishment of two rival port towns along the river: Báng-kah (now Wanhua) and Dadaocheng. Eventually northern Taiwan eclipsed Tainan in strategic and economic importance, resulting in the Qing government moving Taiwan's capital from Tainan to northern Taiwan in 1884. A walled city with gates in the four cardinal directions was built between Báng-kah and Dadaocheng to placate the people of the rival towns ^[1]. The chosen name of the city was Taipei, which literally means "Taipei North" in Chinese.

Qing dynasty

In 1885, Taiwan became a province of Qing Dynasty China. A disgraced reformist court official named Liu Ming-chuan became the governor and made perhaps Taipei the most advanced and best planned city in the entire Qing Empire in order to attract international traders. Fascinated rather than suspicious with technology, Liu made Taipei to be the first city in the entire historic Chinese empire to shine an electric light bulb ^[2]. Major roads and government buildings were brightened up with electric lights by 1889. He also built a railroad between Keelung, Taipei, and Hsinchu, which is still in existence today.

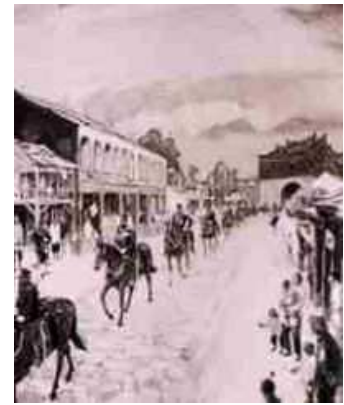
Liu tolerated all criticism made on him by the people; with the Manchu's Empire's suppression of the literati throughout China, Taiwan became the "place of refuge for thousands of the best Chinese scholars" ^[3].

Unfortunately, the court officials who disgraced him became jealous of his accomplishments with Taiwan and had him recalled ^[4]. There are two schools in Taipei named in honor of Liu Ming-chuan: The Taipei Ming-chuan Primary School located next to the National Taiwan University and the Ming Chuan University, located near the site of the 2007 Wikimania conference.

Japanese occupation

According to the Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895, Taiwan became Japanese territory. The Japanese were keen in developing Taipei as the most well-planned city in the Japanese Empire. They contributed much to Taipei's infrastructure and architecture. Much

of the architecture still stand and is now seldom seen in Japan, prompting producers of a Japanese TV drama to shoot scenes of these buildings. The Japanese built a Governor-General Palace (now the Presidential Building) using Prussian architecture. The National Taiwan University (formerly the Taipei Imperial University under Japanese rule) has buildings that vaguely resemble Tokyo University. The Japanese also extended the railway from Taipei to Kaohsiung. Taipei's old city walls were demolished to create wide roads. The current names of many locations in the Greater Taipei Region are actually of Japanese origin; this includes Ximending (西門町), Sanchong (三重), and Songshan (松山).



Although the Japanese treated the local inhabitants as second-class citizens and encouraged them to assimilate into Japanese culture, they did improve the quality of life for the local inhabitants in order to showcase Taiwan as a model Japanese colony. Health and sanity improved. Opium and footbinding were prohibited. Local inhabitants were guaranteed compulsory primary school education, although they were segregated from Japanese nationals and given very limited post-primary school education advancement opportunities. Although the Japanese authorities punished unusually harshly locals who committed crimes, they authorities did generally followed the rule of law.

Resistance against Japanese rule and against the destruction of local culture by Japanization was strong and reached a climax with the Wushe Incident of 1930. After this incident, resistance became weak. Eventually fifty years of Japanese rule resulted in a generation of locals who knew nothing tangible of being once part of China. Before the end of World War II, much of the local population became assimilated to Japanese culture and had Japanese names. The Japanese government considered upgrading Taiwan's status from colony to prefecture and to allow the Taiwanese to participate in the Japanese Diet or Parliament. However, the end of World War II halted this action

After 1945

In 1945, Taiwan became under the control of the Republic of China, which was one of the victors of World War II. The ROC government sent Chen Yi to become governor. The Chen Yi administration was corrupt and led Taiwan to economic ruin, resulting in local discontent. The new government viewed the local Taiwanese with suspicion for having been assimilated to Japanese culture and set out to "re-educate" them. Carpetbaggers from mainland China dominated the local government and economy. All this resentment and misunderstanding led to the February 28 Incident. On February 27, 1947, an ROC officer beat a female elderly Taiwanese cigarette vendor on what is now the intersection of Nanjing West Road and Yanping North Road in Taipei. This provided the spark to blow up the frustration the Taiwanese had with the new government. On February 28, many

local Taiwanese rebelled against the government. The ROC government sent troops from the mainland to crack down on the rebellion, resulting in ten of thousands of Taiwanese killed. This led to a decades long animosity that many “native” Taiwanese (Chinese settlers whose ancestors lived in Taiwan for centuries) had against the ROC government and the mainlanders (Chinese who settled in Taiwan after World War II). A 228 (February 28) Memorial has been built in central Taipei in attempt to heal these wounds.

The Kuomintang dominated Republic of China government retreated to Taiwan at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and made Taipei the provisional capital. Roughly a combined population of two million refugees and troops moved from mainland China to Taiwan during this time, causing Taipei’s population to skyrocket and stressing the original Japanese city plan for Taipei to support up to 600,000 inhabitants ^[5]. The troops built temporary homes in certain parts of Taipei, creating military shantytowns. The former Japanese colonial buildings now became ROC government buildings as well as Kuomintang occupied buildings. (The distinction between party and state was blurred at the time.)

During the outbreak of the Korean War, the ROC and the United States signed a mutual defense pact. Somewhat similar to the case of Okinawa, US military bases were created all over Taiwan. The US military headquarters was located at what is now the Zhongshan Soccer Stadium in Yuanshan, Taipei. US military families lived in US-style homes in Tianmu and Yangmingshan. These bases closed when the US terminated diplomatic relations with the Republic of China in favor of the People’s Republic of China.

1960s

Until the late 1960’s, the ROC government was in a constant state of preparing to re-conquer the Chinese mainland and to move the government back to Nanjing. Therefore, Taipei’s infrastructure stagnated: anyone who suggested of developing Taipei was accused of not wanting to re-conquer the mainland. Still, Taipei was and continues to be Taiwan’s primate city: many people from southern Taiwan moved to Taipei because they viewed Taipei as a city of employment opportunities and of better schools and educational opportunities. To this day, many people in southern, central, and eastern Taiwan are somewhat resentful that a considerable amount of the country’s tax dollars end up being used in Taipei.

In the late 1960’s, then Premier Chiang Ching-kuo knew that the chances of retaking the mainland were extremely slim and proceeded to aggressively develop Taipei’s infrastructure and to upgrade Taipei’s status as a special municipality, meaning that Taipei’s administrative status was equal to that of Taiwan province. In the 1970’s, a freeway and two expressways in Taipei were built and the international airport was moved out of the city. Two large memorial halls were constructed for Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek.

1980s and later

Taipei's infrastructure continued to improve in the 1980's and 90's. The so-called "temporary" military shantytowns were demolished to become parks such as the Da-an Forest Park; soldiers who now became aging veterans were now given well-built permanent homes by the government. The entire railway system was moved underground. Taipei's zoo was relocated from Yuanshan to a much larger site in Mucha. Taipei's City Council, City Hall, and the World Trade Center were completed. Although built much later than the rapid transit systems in Hong Kong and Singapore, Taipei's Mass Rapid Transit System finally debuted in 1996. Further expansion of Taipei's metro network continues to this day.



However, Taipei's development has taken some toll on its environment. People used to bathe at the Keelung River, but the river is now extremely polluted. Certain roads such as Xinsheng South Road used to be beautiful rivers that have now been covered up. Although public transportation is well-used, Taipei's high density of cars and scooters contributes to significant air pollution.

1. ↑ Charette, Rich. "Happy Birthday Taipei! Celebrating the Life of a Fine-Looking Lady." *Discover Taipei* July-August 2004, Taipei City Government, ISSN:17281741, GPN:2009005414
2. ↑ Goddard, W.G. **Formosa**. London: Michigan State Press, 1966. pg 130-131
3. ↑ Goddard, W.G. **Formosa**. London: Michigan State Press, 1966. pg 136, 175
4. ↑ Charette, Rich. "Happy Birthday Taipei! Celebrating the Life of a Fine-Looking Lady." *Discover Taipei* July-August 2004, Taipei City Government, ISSN:17281741, GPN:2009005414
5. ↑ Charette, Rich. "Happy Birthday Taipei! Celebrating the Life of a Fine-Looking Lady." *Discover Taipei* July-August 2004, Taipei City Government, ISSN:17281741, GPN:2009005414

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About Taipei 4: Attractions

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Near the Venue

- **Shilin Night Market:** Located next to the MRT Danshui (Red) Line Jiantan Station. It is about a 5~10 minute walk from the venue.

Danshui, Guandu

Danshui, filled with historical spots like Fort Santo Domingo, was the largest business port in Taiwan. After the MRT Danshui Line opened, the old main street became a major tourist destination always filled with people during the holidays. A-gei(derived from *abura-age*, the Japanese term for "oily tofu") and Iron Eggs are the most famous street foods here.

Transportation: Take the MRT Danshui Line (Red Line) and get off at the northernmost terminal. The journey from Taipei Main Station takes about 26 mins, and costs about NT\$40.

- **Danshui Old Street:** Walk to Zhongzhen road from the MRT Danshui Station.
- **Danshui River Cycling Path:** Along the river bank
- **Fort Santo Domingo:** Walk along Zhongzhen road from MRT Danshui Station
- **Fisherman's Wharf**

Tamsui (Danshui) Fisherman's Wharf is one of the important tourist spots at Tamsui(Danshui Township). It was originally the "Tamsui Second Fishing Port", an important fishery harbor in the early history of northern Taiwan. Under a diversification program, this place was modernized and opened for tourism. It is well-known for its beautiful sunset and the fresh fishing goods. Sightseeing, leisure facilities, and ferry service are provided here.

Transportation: Get off at the MRT Danshui Station, and then walk along the river bank to catch the ferry at the ferry terminal. Or take the Bus No. R1 at the MRT Station.

- **Shihsanhang Archaeological Museum**



Sunset at Danshui

Transportation: Get off at the MRT Danshui Station, and then take the ferries (about 40 mins) before transferring to bus R13. Alternatively, board R13 at the MRT Guandu Station.

- Guandu, and the Hongshulin Mangroves Marshlands

Shilin, Beitou, Tianmu

- National Palace Museum

The National Palace Museum was originally located in the Forbidden City in Beijing. In 1949, however, it moved to Taipei when the Kuomintang-dominated Republic of China Government retreated to Taiwan after the Chinese Civil War. Many of those cultural treasures, which were once stored in Southern China to avoid the Japanese army during World War II, are now here in Waishuangxi, Taipei. The museum has more than 65,500 pieces of artifacts and treasures originating from the Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties of China. The NPM is the must-stop for the exploration of Chinese culture.



View of the National Palace Museum in distance

Transportation: Get off at the MRT Danshui Line (Red Line) Shilin Station; transfer to Bus 255, R30, 304 or hail a taxi.

- Yangmingshan National Park

Yangmingshan, so called Yangmin Mountain, is one of the National Parks of Taiwan. It was named the "Grass Mountain" before renamed in memory of Ming Dynasty educationist, Wang Yangming. The park is formed up with mountains involving the mountain of Datun(大屯山), Qixin(七星山), and Shamao(Seven Star/紗帽山). And it is famous for its volcanic landscape. Inside the park set several spots like Hsiaoyoukeng(Xiaoyoukun as Hanyu?) Walking Area, Lengshuikeng, Tatun(Datun) Natural Park, Chingtingang (Qingtiangang), Butterfly Corridor, Chutzuhu(Zhuzi lake) Village, and some ecological preserved areas only for researches.



Transportation: Take bus R5 at the stop of "MRT Jiantan Station" on the Jihe Rd(基河路). And you can proceed to the Metropolis Bus Services Terminal Station, where is only a walk distance to the Yangming Park. You may take 108 休閒 Bus to many other spots.

- Shilin Night Market

The Shilin Night Market is perhaps Taiwan's premier and most popular night market. Every need can be fulfilled including food or shopping as well as entertainment. Most distinguished Taiwanese street food along with Shilin's specialties can be found here such as Shilin Jumbo sausage, Squid thick soup, Fried chicken steak (especially the "Hauda dajipai" that is famous for its large size), Fried buns, Oyster omelet, Small bun wrapped in large bun, Douhua, Jioufen-featured Hongcao Ba-wan.....etc. Despite eating, shopping could also be an exciting activity here. Thanks to the vendors with various kinds of goods, you'll find anything you want from daily commodities like masks, socks to fashionable accessories and in-style clothes. You can also enjoy the happiness of a successful bargain experience here even though the original price was already low. If you cannot find your own way, just follow the others! This is the best way to find out the fashion!

Transportation: Get off at MRT Jiantan Station.

- Beitou Hot Spring: MRT Xinbeitou Station
- Shunyi Museum of Formosan Aborigines: Get off at the MRT Danshui Line (Red Line) Shilin Station then transfer to Bus 255, R30, or maybe call a taxi.
- Liuligongfang Taipei International Gallery: MRT Shipai, take bus 220, 285, 508, 606, 612 to Qixian

Building Stop.

- National Taiwan Science Education Center: MRT Jiantan, take the shuttle bus at the station
- Taipei Astronomical Museum: MRT Jiantan, take the shuttle bus at the station
- National Revolutionary Martyr's Shrine
- Chien Mu Residence: MRT Jiantan, take bus 304 to Soochow University Stop
- Linyutang Memorial Library: MRT Jiantan, take bus 260, 303, Minibus 15, 16 to Yongfu Stop
- Zhangdaqian Memorial Hall: MRT Jiantan, take bus 304, Minibus 18, 19.
- C.K.S.Shilin Residence: MRT Shilin, a 10-min walk to Fulin Rd.

Wanhua, Datong, Zhongzhen

■ Ximending:

Ximending is one of the most important commercial circles in Taipei. It got its name due to the location near the "Xi Men" (West Gate) of former Taipei City. The area's development started in the Japanese Colonial Period when Japanese planned this region to consist a commercial function. The Red House Theater is one of the early-established entertainment facilities. After generations, Ximending, boasting movie theaters and Japanese waves shops, became the very own base of trend-conscious young people. Specialties are inclusive of "A-zong vermicelli"(阿宗麵線) and "Laotianlu Braised Food"(老天祿滷味).

Transportation: Get off at MRT Ximen Station of Banan(Blue) Line and Xiaonanmen Branch Line. Use the Exit 6.



- National Museum of History: CKS Memorial Hall Station, Danshui Line(Red Line). Use Exit 1 then take a 5 minute walk along Nanhai Road(南海路).
- Customs Museum:
- Postal museum: MRT CKS Memorial Hall, then walk along Nanhai Road
- Xiahai City God Temple:
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei: MRT Zhongshan, a 3-min walk to Changan W. Rd.
- Spot-Taipei Film House: MRT Zhongshan Station
- Taipei Eye: MRT Minguan W. Road Station
- Taipei Story House: MRT Yuanshan Station
- Taipei Fine Arts Museum: MRT Yuanshan
- Lin Antai Historical Home: MRT Yuanshan Station, cross the Zhongshan N. Rd. and take a 30-min walk
- Confucius Temple: MRT Yuanshan Station, a 10-min walk
- Baoan Temple: MRT Yuanshan Station, a 12-min walk
- Dr. S.Y.S. Memorial House(Not the same as the Hall): MRT Taipei Main Station
- Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center: MRT Zhongxiao Xincheng Station

Daan, Songshan

■ East District(東區) Circle:

While technically not one of Taipei's twelve administrative districts, the East District generally refers to the area east of Fuxing South Road, which has been in constant development since the 1950's. The East District Circle usually means the portion of Zhongxiao East Road (忠孝東路) starting from the MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing station and ending at the MRT Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall station. The Wellcome Plaza (頂好廣場), Tonlin Department Store (統領百貨), the Pacific SOGO Department Store, as well as numerous restaurants, boutiques, jewelry stores, and brand stores are found either in this circle or in the neighboring roads and alleyways.



Depending on the context, the term "East District" could also specifically indicate the **Xinyi District**. See the subsection on Xinyi District for details.

Transportation: Get off at either the MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing(忠孝復興站) station, the MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua(忠孝敦化) station, or the MRT Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Station . There is a underground mall between the Zhongxiao Dunhua Station and the Zhongxiao Fuxing Station.

- Wufenpu Garment Wholesale Area
- Guanghua Market for PC:
- Yongkan Street:

At the intersection of Xinyi Road, section 2(信義路二段), and the Yongkan street(永康街) located numerous famous restaurants for their distinguish foods such as shaved ice and Xiaolongbao. There are also lots of clothes boutiques, coffe shop, and accessory stores.

Transportation: MRT for this area is now under construcion. You may take the buses. Almost every bus drives through Xinyi Road(信義路) has a stop for it called "Xinyi yongkan Intersection"(信義永康街口).

- Raohe Street Night Market: MRT Taipei City Hall, take bus 203, 276, 311 and get off at Songshan Stop
- Wufenpu Ready-made Clothes Shopping Area: MRT Houshanpi, a 8-min walk
- Living Mall: Take the Living Mall Shuttle Bus at MRT SYS Memorial Hall, Zhongxiao Dunhua, and Zhongxiao Fuxing
- Puppetry Art Center of Taipei
- Breeze Centre: MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Station

Xinyi, Nangang, Neihu

Under the fast development of Taipei during the past 25 years, Xinyi District grew rapidly. Now it has becam the so-called "Taipei Manhattan" with plenty of high-raised commercial buildings and shopping centres. After the joining of Vieshow Cinema Center and Shinkong Mitsukoshi Department Store, it now even became the most popular place-to-go during the weekend for citizen and foreigners. Many scenes of the Taiwanese drama can also be found here.

- Taipei101
- Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store-Hsinyi New Life Square
- Discovery Center of Taipei
- Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall
- Taipei World Trade Center (The Taipei Computer Applications Show will coincide with Wikimania)
- Vieshow Cinema Center
- Miramar Shopping Mall



Wenshan, Xindian, Wulai

- Maokong Area
- Taipei Zoo
- Gongguan Circle
- Bitan: Alight at MRT Xindian Station, Xindian (Green) Line then take a 5 mins walk.
- Wulai Hot Spring

Shenkeng, Pinglin

- Shengkeng Old Street
- Pinglin Tea Plantations

Zhonghe, Yonghe

- Museum of World Religions

The North Coast

- Ju Ming Museum
- Yeliu

Further Information

For more information, you may visit [Taipei Travel Net](#) or [The Tourism Bureau](#).

You may also contact Travel Information Service Centers located at the following locations:

- Taipei Main(Railway) Station
- Banqiao Railway Station
- Taipei Songshan Domestic Airport
- MRT Beitou, Jiantan, Ximen, Zhongxiao Fuxing, Danshui, and Xindian Station

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About Taipei 5: Religions

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Religions

Taiwan is probably the most religiously tolerant place in the world. Taipei is rich in beautiful, ornate temples housing Buddhist, Taoist, and Chinese folk religion deities. Xinsheng South Road is known as the road to heaven because of its high concentration of churches as well as a mosque (literally called “Pure Truth Temple” in Chinese). Several blocks away from Xinsheng South Road is the beautiful, pristine Mormon Temple as well as the Vatican’s representative office.

Visitors will find many religious leaders in Taiwan to be less dogmatic in doctrine and more supportive of interfaith dialogue based on the common goal of peace among humanity ^[1]. The Falun Gong freely meditate and express their political viewpoints in Taiwan: expect to occasionally see their advertisements. One may also occasionally see Tibetan monks strolling on the streets of Taipei.

Besides large temples, small outdoor shrines to local deities are very common, and can be spotted on road sides, parks, and neighborhoods. Many homes and businesses may also set up small shrines of candles, figurines, and offerings. Some restaurants, for example, may set up a small shrine to the Kitchen god for success in a restaurant business.

Tzu Chi is Taiwan's largest charity and relief organization, headed by the Buddhist nun Cheng Yen. The organization maintains a cable television station named *Dai-ai* (Big Love), which has a handful of English language shows.

Religious demographics

Here are the top five religions in Taiwan:

Religion	Members	%	Temples & Churches
Buddhism (佛教)	5,486,000	23.8	4,038
Taoism (道教)	4,546,000	19.7	8,604
Yi Guan Dao (一貫道)	845,000	3.7	3,218
Protestantism (基督新教)	605,000	2.6	3,609
Catholicism (天主教)	298,000	1.3	1,135



According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA, there are about 93.5% of people identifying themselves as Buddhists, Taoists, or practitioners of Chinese folk religion. It is common for people to practice a blend of the three. Many people practice Buddhism exclusively, but those who practice Taoism more often blend Taoist religious practices with elements from Buddhism and folk traditions. It is not uncommon to find a Buddhist temple adjacent to a Taoist temple, or even under the same roof.

Additional Information

The following link to [This Month in Taiwan] provides a comprehensive listing for places of worship with the addresses given in Wade-Giles romanization. Here is a partial list:

- Judiasm: The Landis Taipei Hotel
41 Minguan East Road, Sec. 2
Telephone: 2597-1234
 - Catholic: St. Christopher's Catholic Church
51 Zhongshan N. Road, Sec. 3
Telephone: 2594-7914
 - Islam: Taipei Grand Mosque
62 Xinshen South Road, Sec. 2
Telephone: 2392-7364
Website: <http://www.taipeimosque.org.tw>
 - Protestant: Grace Baptist Church
90 Xincheng S. Road, Sec. 3
Telephone: 8369-2840
Website: <http://www.gbc.org.tw>
 - Orthodox: Orthodox Church of Taiwan
Address: 4th Fl. No. 389-12 Shi-Yuen Road Xindian City Taipei County Telephone: 8218-9009
Website: <http://orthodox.com.tw>
 - Episcopal: St. John Cathedral
Address: 280 Fuxing South Road, Sec. 2
Telephone: 2732-7740
<http://www.stjohn.org.tw/>
1. ↑ Mojahedi, Daniel. "Taipei's Places of Worship: A Peek Where Muslims, Jews, and Christians Can Worship in the City." *Discover Taipei* September-October 2006, No. 55, Taipei City Government, ISSN:17281741, GPN:2009005414

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About Taipei 6: Food

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Brief

Taipei is the melting pot of Chinese cuisine, the result of refugees from all provinces of mainland China settling in Taiwan after the end of the Chinese Civil War. For instance, despite the traditional Taiwanese aversion to eating beef, beef noodle soup, which was introduced by Nationalist soldiers who settled in Taiwan, is now considered a Taiwanese national dish. Taipei now styles itself as the "Beef Noodle Capital of the World," holding an annual beef noodle festival.

Chinese cuisine in Taiwan is often finely tuned to Taiwanese sensibilities, resulting in a slight difference in texture and in the use of oil and spices. For example, Northern Chinese like their green onion pancakes (葱油餅) and zua-bin (抓餅) should be crispy (酥), but the Taiwanese like it to be "Q" (chewy). Northern Chinese love thick and wide noodles, but the Taiwanese prefer extremely thin noodles.

Fresh fruit and juice

Jade watermelons, longyans, and dragonfruit are in season around August. Do not hesitate to buy fruit from a street vendor. They sometimes even help you cut them into slices with plastic container. Juice bars are found in most department store food courts. There are stalls that sell freshly pressed sugar cane juice as well as shaved mango ice.

- [Ice Palace 冰宮](#)

Location: Yongkan Street (永康街) near the main branches of the KaoChi and Ding Tai Fong restaurants (see Shanghai Cuisine).

From the MRT National Taiwan University Station or the Taipei Main Station (Qingdao) Bus Stop (台北車站青島公車站), take the Xinyi Bus Line (信義幹線), which will eventually travel to Xinyi Road. When you cross Jinshan South Road and see Mister Donut (a donut shop), ring the bell to get off the bus. The name of the bus stop should Xinyi-Yongkan Intersection (信義永康街口公車站). Once you get off the bus, go back to Mister Donut to find Yongkan Street.

Coffee shops

Starbucks and its competitors are ubiquitous in Taipei.

Fast food

If you really cannot adjust to Chinese food in Taiwan, there is Subways, Burger King, McDonalds, Dominos, Pizza Hut, KFC, Long John's Silver, MOS burger, and Yoshinoya. All Yoshinoya stores open 24 hours and select McDonalds are also open 24 hours. Western fast food restaurants in Taipei do have Asian influence: KFC offers egg tarts; McDonalds sells rice burgers; Pizza Hut has rice pizza. A McDonalds ice cream cone costs only NT\$10 (US\$ 0.33).

Food courts

Food courts can be found in the basement of any department store in Taipei. Expect to pay between NT\$100-NT\$200 for a set meal.

Bento (Biandang/便當 in Chinese)

Bento is a single-portion takeout meal that is popular in East Asian country because of its easy-to-go quality. It would be a good way to have a meal done efficiently and if you have budget concerns. You can easily find Bento stores all over the city. One of the most common types are those wrapped in wooden flakes. All convenience stores also sell Bento including beef noodles, and with heating services. Prices of each Bento sold in the Bento stores are around NT\$70-NT\$120. And those in the convenience stores are around NT\$45-NT\$65. Traditional Taiwanese bentos include pork chop with rice (排骨飯) or chicken leg with rice (雞腿飯) which are both typically served with mustard sauerkraut (酸菜) and semi-pickled cucumbers (煙黃瓜).

Street Food & the Night Markets

Taiwan is also famous for its various street food and night market lives. Among the entire Greater China Region, Taiwan's night markets might be the most distinguished. You can find any kind of local and international tastes here. The most commonly-known Taiwan-owned street food are Oyster omelette(蚵仔煎), Stinky Tofu(臭豆腐), Oyster Vermicelli(蚵仔麵線), and Tempura/Tianbula(甜不辣).



Cuisine by Types

Taiwanese Cuisine

Main article at Wikipedia: Category:Taiwanese cuisine

- Tian Tsi Noddles (度小月擔仔麵)

Chinese Website: <http://www.iddi.com.tw/index.phtml>

Address: 26 Alley 5, Zhongxiao East Road, Section 4 (忠孝東路170號5弄26號); Telephone:02-2773-1244



Take a 5-min walk from MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua

- Shin Yeh/Zhongxiao Branch (欣葉台菜/忠孝店)
Address: 112 Zhongxiao E. Road, Sec. 4 (忠孝東路4段112號); Telephone:02-2752-9299
Walk 5 minutes from MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing
- Traditional Hakka Restaurant (你家我家客家菜)
Address: 135 Jilin Road (吉林路135號); Telephone:02-2564-1889/02-2561-1869
- Vu Vu Rock
It could be recognized as the only aboriginal cuisine in the city!
Address: 3 Zhishan Road, Section 3 (至善路3段3號); Telephone:02-2880-3043

Cantonese Cuisine

- Hung Hom (紅磡港式飲茶)
Chinese Website: <http://hungkan.wa24hr.com/>
Address: 2F, 155 Zhongxiao East Road, Section 4 (忠孝東路4段155號2樓); Telephone:02-2721-1292
1 minute journey on foot from MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua



Hot pot

- Kuo Bee Pen Da (鍋比盆大)
Address: 27 Guangfu South Road, Lane 280 (光復南路280巷27號); Telephone:02-2721-3783
Take a 3-min walk from MRT S.Y.S Memorial hall
- Tansian Hot Pot (天香回味火鍋城)
Website: <http://www.tansian.com.tw/>
Address: 2F, 16 Nanjing East Road, Section 1 (南京東路1段16號2樓); Telephone:02-2511-7275
5 minutes from MRT Zhongshan Station

Shanghai Cuisine

- Ding Tai Fung (鼎太豐)
Taiwan website: <http://www.dintaifung.com.tw/eng/>
USA website: <http://www.dintaifungusa.com/>
See the above Ice Palace entry for directions. There is also a branch restaurant at the Sogo Department Store Fuxing branch located next to the MRT Zhongxiao-Fuxing Station.
- KaoChi (高記)
Website: <http://www.kao-chi.com>
Yongkan Main Branch: 3 Yongkan Road (Near Xinyi Road, Section 2); Telephone: 02-2341-9971; See the above Ice Palace entry for directions.
Fuxing Branch: 1FL, 150 Fuxing South Road, Section 1 (復興南路一段150號一樓); Near the MRT Zhongxiao-Fuxing Station

Shanghai Shanghai (紅豆食府)

Chinese Website: <http://www.shanghaishanghai.com.tw/>

Minsheng headquarter: B1, 129 Minsheng East Road, Sec.3 (民生東路三段129號 B1); Telephone: 8770-6969

SOGO Dunhua Department Store Branch: B2, 246 Dunhua South Road, Sec.1; Telephone: 02- 8771-5511; Located near the MRT Zhongxiao-Dunhua Station.

- Tien Hsiang Lo (天香樓)
Website: <http://www.landistpe.com.tw/dining.htm>
Location: The Landis Taipei

- Nanmen Market (南門市場)
Located next to the MRT Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall Station. Follow signs in MRT station for directions.
All sorts of steamed buns and Shanghai pasties are found here. Japanese tour groups frequent the place. Beside Shanghai cuisine, some nearby restaurants also provide other kinds of food, like the famous "Gingfon"(金峰) is the authority of Taiwanese "pork-stewed with rice"(滷肉飯).

Peking (Beijing Cuisine)

- Beijing-Do It True
Address: 506 Renai Road, Sec. 4 (台北市仁愛路四段506號)
Near the Taipei City Hall, Taipei City Council, and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall
- Zhou Panzi Dumpling House (周胖子餃子館)
Address: 37 Zhongxiao East Road, Section 5 (忠孝東路五段37號)
Located at the Taipei City Hall station, facing away from the Taipei 101; a gas station is nearby.
This would be considered a best-buy restaurant.
- Chu Chi (朱記餡餅粥店)
Address: 106 Renai Road, Section 3 (仁愛路3段106號); Telephone:02-2702-9411
- Tien Chu restaurant (天廚菜館)
Address: 3-4F, 1 Nanjing West Road (南京西路1號3-4樓); Telephone:02-2563-2171/02-2563-2380

Sichuan Cuisine

- Sichuan and Jiangsu Broker (四川吳抄手)
Address: 250-3 Zhongxiao East Road, Section 4 (忠孝東路4段250號-3); Telephone:02-2772-1707

Chinese Islamic beef noodle cuisine (Halal/清真)

- Halal China Beef House (清真中國牛肉館)
Jiyan Street (台北市延吉街137巷7弄1號)
Near the MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua station
Business hours: 11:30~14:30 and 17:00~21:00

- Halal Yellow Cattle Beef Noodle Soup House (清真黃牛肉麵館)
Alley 223, No. 41 Zhongxiao East Road Section 4 (台北市忠孝東路4段223巷41號)
Walking distance from the MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua station
Telephone: 02-27318550
Business hours: 11:00~14:00 and 17:00~19:30

Vegetarian cuisine

A swastika, which is frequently encountered in Buddhist temples, is sometimes used to indicate vegetarian cuisine. The Chinese character for vegetarianism is 素 (*su*).

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About Taipei 7: Stores

Wikimania 2007 Taipei :: a Globe in Accord

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See also Attractions

Contents

- 1 Convenience stores
- 2 Bakeries
- 3 Drug stores
- 4 Supermarkets
- 5 Department stores
- 6 Bookstores
 - 6.1 English-language bookstores
 - 6.2 Computer bookstore
 - 6.3 Specialty bookstores
- 7 Musical instrument stores
- 8 Computer and electronics
- 9 Paintings and calligraphy

Convenience stores

Taiwan has arguably the world's highest density of 24-hour convenience stores, providing all the basic necessities. The most common franchise chains include 7-Eleven, Family Mart, Hi-life, NikoMart and Circle K (called OK in Taiwan).



Bakeries

Taipei also has a high density of bakeries, many of which are heavily Japanese-influenced. Pineapple shortcakes are a local speciality. A piece of pastry bread costs around NT\$25-NT40.

Drug stores

Major chains include Watsons and Cosmed. Toiletries, over-the-counter medicine, dental care, and basic beauty products can be found here. Consider them to be the US equivalent of Long's Drug Store and Walgreens. Typical business hours: 10am-10pm. Few selected Cosmed Stores open 24 hours a day, however.

Supermarkets

The largest chain store is Wellcome. High end, premium supermarkets filled with foreign goods include Jason's, which can be found at the Taipei 101 shopping mall and City Super, which is located at the Zhongxiao-Fuxing MRT Station Sogo Department Store. Business hours varies. Selected Wellcome stores open 24 hours.



Another well-known chain store is Pxmart, which is famous for its far lower price: about 10%-30% off

compared to ordinary groceries and convenience stores. However, they do not accept credit cards.

Department stores

Department stores and shopping malls can be found throughout Taipei. These stores have high-end supermarkets and moderately priced food courts.



There are three Sogo Department Stores on Zhongxiao East Road. One branch is near the Zhongxiao-Donghua MRT Station. Two branches are accessible through special underground entrances at the Zhongxiao-Fuxing MRT station.

Despite the mega building complex of Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store's "Hsinyi New Life Square" in the Xinyi District, Shin Kong Mitsukoshi also operates a department store on Zhongxiao West Rd. in front of the Taipei Railway Station Building and another one on Nanjing West Rd. above the MRT Zhongshan Station.

The Miramar Entertainment Park in the Dazhi area has a large department store, a ferris wheel, as well as an IMAX theater. There are also two hypermarkets located next to it. Miramar is accessible through a free special shuttle bus located at the Jiantan MRT station.

There are two department stores in the Tianmu neighborhood of the Shilin District: Shin Kong Mitsukoshi and Dayeh Takashimaya. The Shin Kong Tianmu branch has a movie theater; Dayeh Takashimaya has a Jason's Supermarket. They can be reached by bus routes 285, 606, and 685, which pass by the Jiantan bus stop.

Bookstores

English-language bookstores

Stores with the largest collection of English books include Caves, Eslite, and Page One. With the notable exception of Caves, most bookstores wrap most English magazines and certain English books in plastic, preventing the customer from browsing them.

- Caves Bookstore (Main branch)
 - 103 Zhongshan North Road, Sec. 2
 - 2537-1666
 - Located between the MRT Shuanlien and Zhongshan Stations
 - Website: [1] (Traditional Chinese only)
- Caves Bookstore (Tianmu branch)
 - No.5, Lane 38, Tianyu St
 - 2874-2199
 - Near Tian Mu Elementary School, please see Google Maps.

- Eslite Bookstore (Xinyi flagship branch)
 - 11 Songgao Road
 - 8789-3388
 - Located near the MRT Taipei City Hall Station



- Pageone Bookstore (Taipei 101 Branch)
 - Located at the 5th floor inside the Taipei 101

Computer bookstore

■

Tenlong Bookstore

Taipei's largest English language computer and technical book seller; also sells math, science, and engineering textbooks in English. Prices are up to 70% cheaper than in the United States as a benefit for students in lower income countries.

Address: 107 Chongqing South Road, Section 1

Located a few blocks away from the Presidential building

Nearest MRT stations: Taipei Main Station and National Taiwan University Hospital Station

Website: <http://www.tenlong.com.tw>

Specialty bookstores

The region between the MRT Taipower Station and the MRT Gunguan Station contain a high concentration of specialized bookstores, ranging from cheap, but authorized college textbooks in English, Christian books, Buddhist books, feminist books, books written in simplified Chinese, and GLBT books. A high concentration of Chinese-language book stores can also be found on Chongqing South Road between the Presidential building and the MRT Taipei Main Station.

Musical instrument stores

The following stores sell Chinese musical instruments. Expect an excellent Chinese flute (dizi) to cost around NT\$2500. Here are two musical instrument stores that are located near the Wikimania Conference site:

■

Yuing Music Store

Website: http://www.yuing.com.tw/en/about_melodymusic.asp

Address: 253 Wenlin Road, Shilin

Located between the MRT Shilin Station and the Shilin Night Market [2]

■

Shilin Music Store

Address: 99 Wenlin Road, 2F1, Shilin

Located opposite to the Shilin Night Market branch of Mister Donuts. First floor is a photo shop.

Computer and electronics

■

GuangHua Market

Taipei's largest and oldest computer bazaar/market

Located in the region surrounded by the following roads: Bate Road, Xincheng Road, Jinshan Road, and Civil Blvd. near the MRT Zhongxiao-Xincheng Station.

NOVA

Located at the Taipei Main Station

KMall

Located near Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Taipei Station Store.

Taipei Computer Applications Show

Venue: Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall 1

Opening Time: August 2-6, 2007, 10am-6pm (last day to 7pm)

Admission Fee: NT\$200 (August 5 and 6)

Contents: Computers, computer accessories, memory cards, and cameras sold at bargain prices.



Warranty usually effective only for Taiwan, although there can be exceptions.
Nearest MRT station: MRT Taipei City Hall station; free shuttle bus provided.
Official Website: TAITRA Website / TCA Website

Paintings and calligraphy

At intersection of Zhongxiao West Road and Zhongshan South Road, across the street from Executive Yuan and Control Yuan

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About Taipei 8: Media

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Chinese

The China Times, Liberty Times, and United Daily News are three widely published newspapers. They can be found at convenience stores throughout Taiwan.

Five Television stations-TTV, CTV, CTS, FTV, and PTS provide non-cable broadcast nationwide. By convention, cable news channels are located between channels 50~58 regardless of cable operator.



Taiwan Television Co., Ltd.

English

- The English bimonthly magazine *Discover Taipei* provides excellent information about the life and culture in Taipei. It is written mostly by foreign residents and is published by the Taipei City Government. Although new issues of this free magazine disappear quickly after they are available in most MRT stations, the city government has now made recent issues available in pdf format.
- *This Month in Taiwan* provides visitors comprehensive information about Taiwan including lists of hotels, churches, embassies, and restaurants as well as maps of the major cities in Taiwan.
- There are three English newspapers in Taiwan, which can be found in most island-wide convenience stores.
 - *Taiwan News* is Taiwan's oldest English newspaper and is owned by food manufacturing company I-Mei; its editorials have a pan-green tilt (DPP and allied parties).
 - *The China Post* has the largest circulation and an excellent comics page; its editorials support the pan-blues (KMT and allied parties).
 - *Taipei Times* is Taiwan's newest English language newspaper owned by the pan-green Liberty Times Group. It has an excellent website with a database spanning all the way from the September 21, 1999 earthquake in Taiwan.
- Overseas newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *Asian Wall Street Journal* are sold in a small quantities at targeted bookstores including the Eslite Xinyi flagship branch.
- Most cable television providers do provide the live CNN and BBC News channels. HBO and Cinemax are also available.
- ICRT FM 100 is Taiwan's main English language radio station. There is also Radio Taiwan international, which broadcasts programming in different languages.

Other Language

- Most cable television providers do provide the live NHK program.

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About Taipei 9: Museums

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- [Children's Art Museum in Taipei](#)
- [Museum of World Religions](#)
- [National Museum of History](#)
- [Museum of the Intitute of History and Philology](#)
- [National Taiwan Museum](#)
- [National Palace Museum](#)
- [National Taiwan Arts Education Center](#)
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- [The Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines](#)
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- [Taipei Fine Arts Museum](#)
- [Taipei Astronomical Museum](#)
- [The Juming Museum](#)



Taiwan Museum

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


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Local transportation 2: Transportation between airport and city

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- 2 City to Airport
 - 2.1 Bus (客運)
 - 2.2 THSR (台灣高鐵)
 - 2.3 Taxi (計程車)

Airport to City

Bus (客運)

Freeway buses to Taipei City are located in both Terminals 1 and 2 of the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE). The average commute time from TTIA to Taipei is one hour.

Although there are many bus services to choose from, Kuo-Kuang Motor Transport Company (國光客運) provides the cheapest fares. Take the Kuo-Kuang bus **bound for the Taipei Main Station (台北車站)**, which makes a side stop at the MRT Yuanshan Station (捷運圓山站). The fare for an adult is NT\$125 (or roughly US\$4). If you plan to head directly to the conference site, **get off at the MRT Yuanshan Station and take the MRT to Jiantan (劍潭)**(See To venue).

Avoid taking the Kuo-Kuang bus to the MRT Minquan W. Road Station (捷運民權西路站) because while the fare may be lower at NT\$75, the bus will travel on a much longer and slower route.

Terminal 1 (第一航站)

Buses are located at the southwest side of the arrivals reception area. After clearing customs and entering the reception area, turn left and go all the way to the leftmost end of the arrival hall.

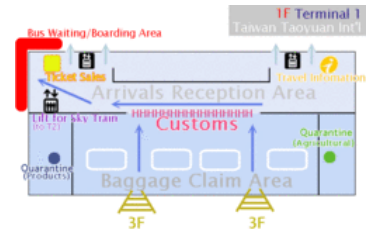


Airport-Taipei Bus Route

Airlines using Terminal 1

			
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Angkor Airways	Air Macau	Cathay Pacific	(excluding Japan, U.S., Canada, Australia)
 Mandarin Airlines	 Jetstar Asia	 Korean Air	 Malaysia Airlines
Palau Trans Pacific Airlines	 Philippine Airlines	 President Airlines	 Thai Airways International
 TransAsia Airways	 Vietnam Airlines	 Cebu Pacific	



Terminal 2 (第二航站)

Buses are located at the northeast side of the arrivals reception area. After clearing customs and entering the reception area, turn right and go all the way to the end of the hall. Then turn right again and go all the way down another hallway.

Airlines using Terminal 2			
 All Nippon Air(ANK)	 Asiana Airlines	 Dragonair	 China Airlines (all flights to Japan, U.S., Canada, Australia)
 EVA Air	 Uni Air	 Far Eastern Air Transport	 Japan Asia Airways
 KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	 Northwest Airlines	 Pacific Airlines	 Singapore Airlines
 United Airlines			



THSR (台灣高鐵)

There is a Taiwan High Speed Rail (THSR) service from Taoyuan to Taipei. However, the extra commuting time from TTIA to the THSR Taoyuan Station (高鐵桃園站) via shuttle bus plus the total fare might not necessarily make THSR the optimal means of reaching Taipei. This is because as of April 2007, only one train stops at the Taoyuan Station each hour to pickup passengers heading for Taipei. It costs

NT\$20 for the shuttle bus from the airport to the THSR Taoyuan Station and NT\$160 for the high speed rail ride. The shuttle bus service is operated by U-bus (統聯客運).

Taxi (計程車)

Taxis are available at the airport twenty-four hours a day. The typical taxi fare to Taipei should be around NT\$1100 (roughly US\$33). The passenger is not responsible for freeway toll fares.

City to Airport

Bus (客運)

Kuo-Kuang provides bus services from the Taipei Main Station and the Songshan Domestic Airport (松山機場) to TTIA. Kuo-Kuang buses that depart from the Taipei Main Station make a brief stop at the neighboring city of Sanchong (三重) before entering the freeway. Again, the cost is NT\$125. To find the dedicated airport-bound Kuo-Kuang bus terminal among the three separate Kuo-Kuang terminals at the Taipei Main Station, first head to the tallest building at the Taipei Main Station area, which is the Shin-Kong Tower (新光摩天大樓). At the Shin-Kong Tower, face northwest towards Zhongxiao West Road (忠孝西路) and look for a large sign which says "To Taoyuan Airport."

Some hotels or hostels may provide shuttle service to the airport. Contact the lodging receptionist for details.

THSR (台灣高鐵)

If you wish to take the Taiwan High Speed Rail to indirectly reach the airport, the station is located at the basement of the Taipei Railway Station (台北車站). Make sure not to confuse the Taiwan Railway system with the Taiwan High Speed Rail system as their entrances are located next to each other. In addition, make sure you take the high speed rail train that makes a stop at Taoyuan (桃園). When you leave the THSR Taoyuan station, take the shuttle bus that leaves for the airport. The airport is located approximately six kilometers from the THSR Taoyuan station.



Map of the Taipei Main Station Area

Taxi (計程車)

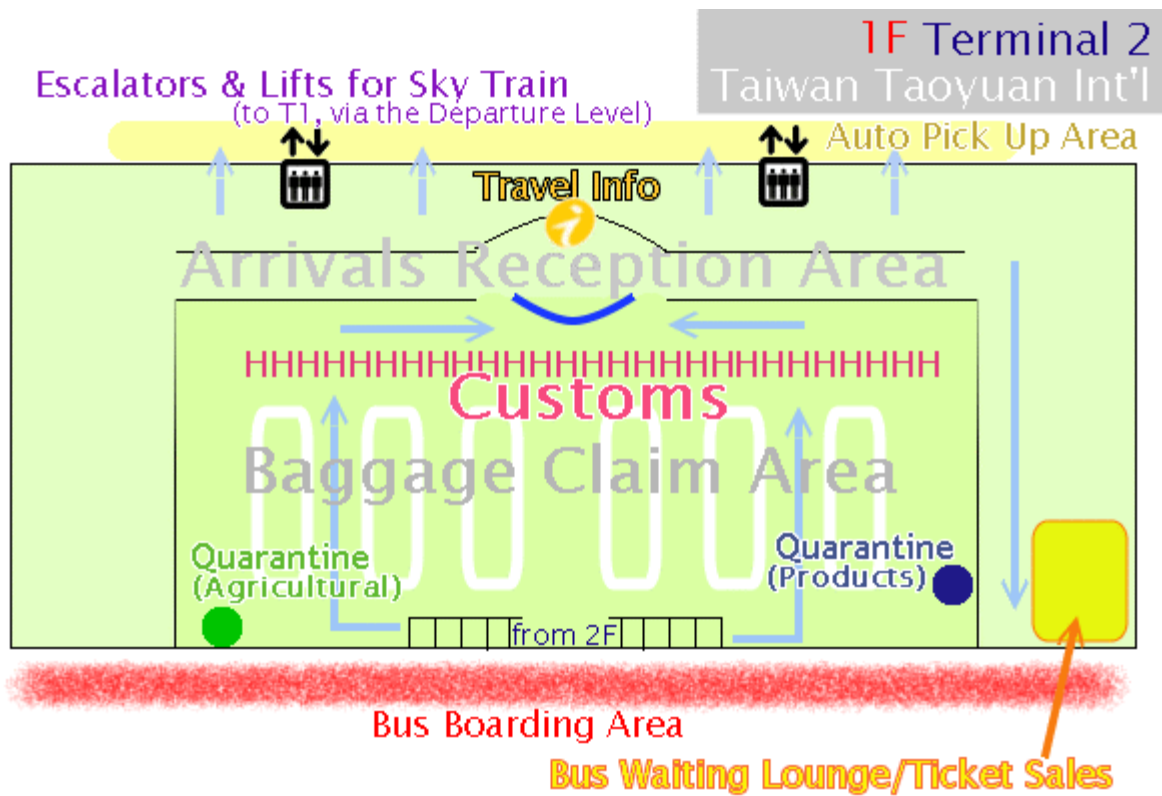
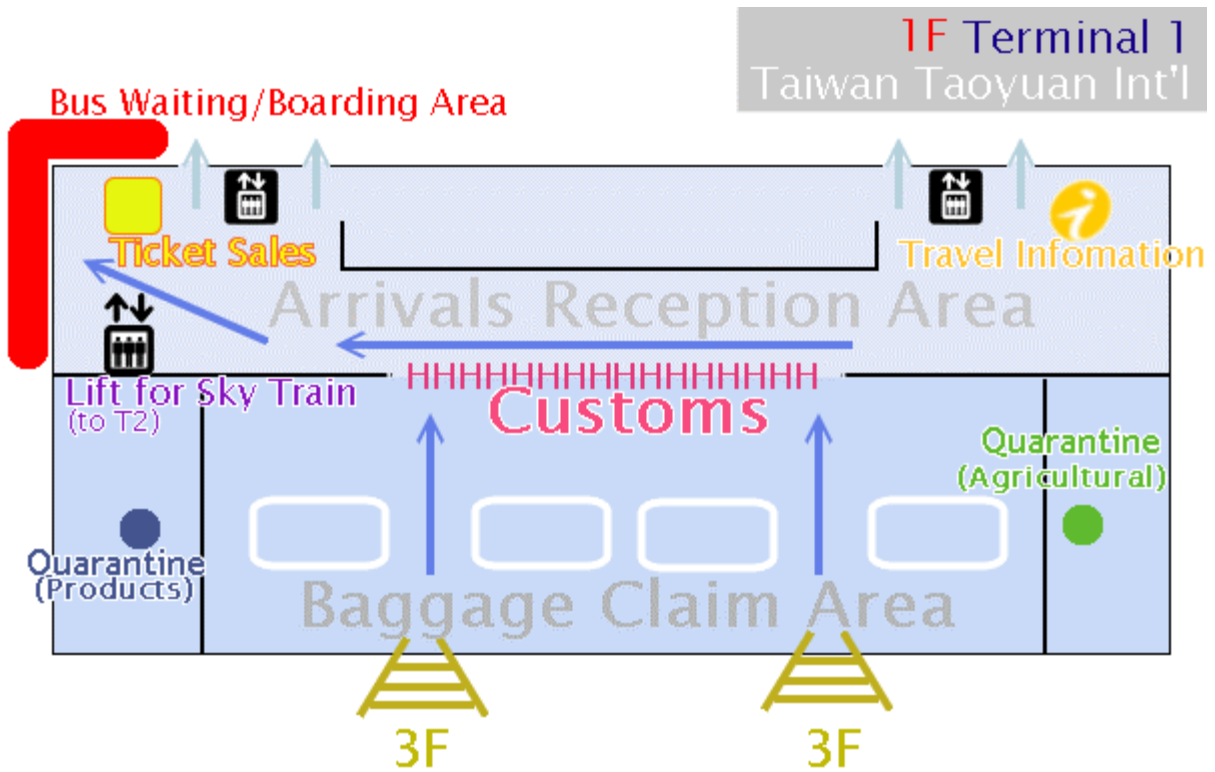
Language barriers may cause your driver to confuse the **Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport** (台灣桃園國際機場) and the downtown-located **Songshan Domestic Airport** (松山機場). Be sure to clearly notify the driver about your true destination.

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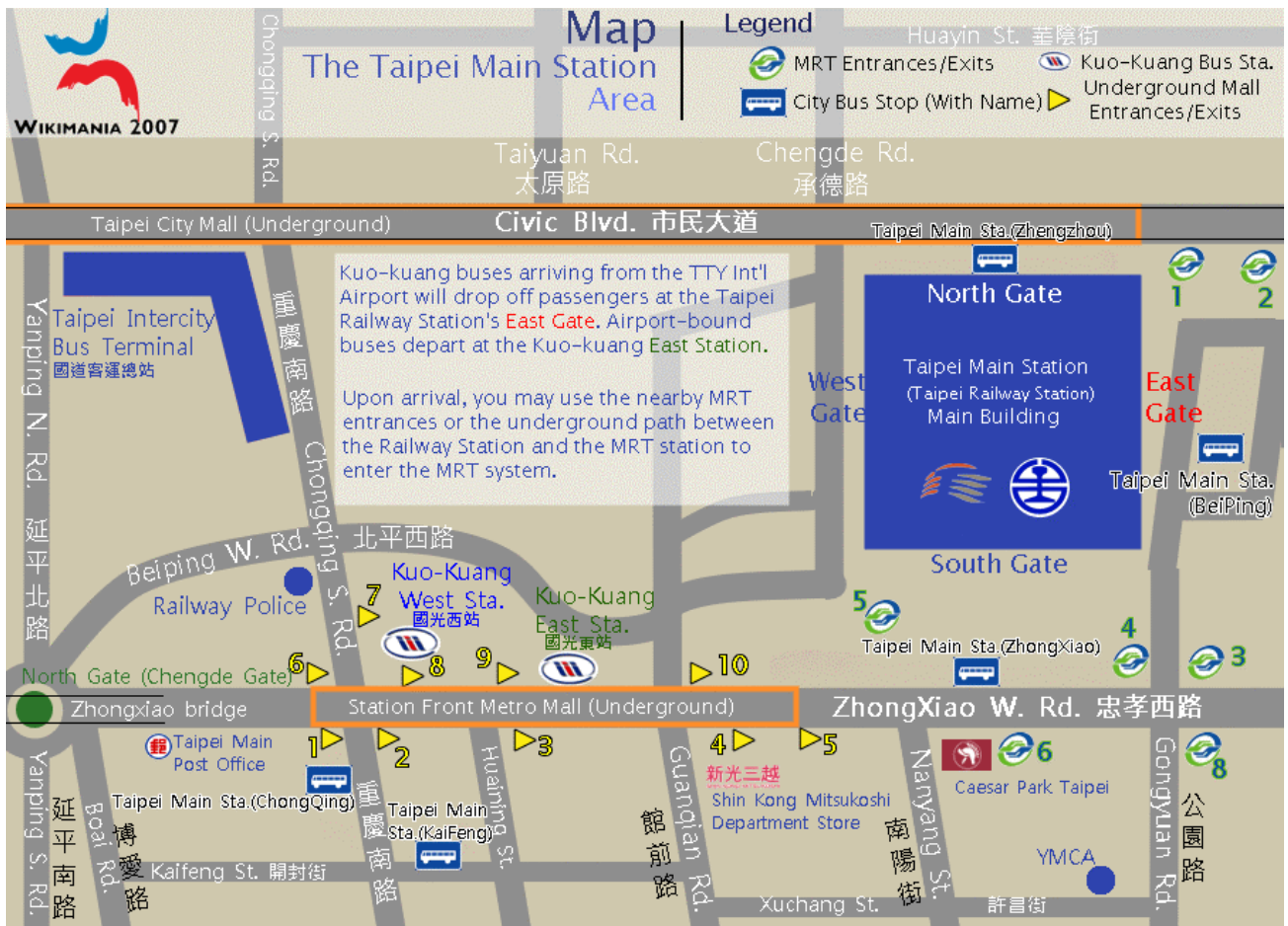




Taiwan Taoyuan Internaitonal – Downtown Taipei Bus Route Map



airbus 大有巴士 also provide service between Airport & Downtown
 Please contact the sales counter at the Airport Arrival Level.



Local transportation 3: Conference site transportation

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 - 1.3 MRT (捷運)
- 2 From MRT Yuanshan Station (捷運圓山站) to Jiantan / Chien Tan (劍潭)
- 3 From MRT Jiantan Station (捷運劍潭站) to CTOYAC

From Taipei Main Station (台北車站) to Jiantan / Chien Tan (劍潭)



One can travel from the Taipei Main Station to the Chien Tan Overseas Youth Activity Center (劍潭海外青年活動中心; CTOYAC) by Taipei City Bus or Taipei MRT (metro Taipei). Taipei Main Station refers to an area where most inter- and intra-city transportation networks converge at in Taipei. Consult Floor Guide of Taipei Main Station, and Bus Route Map, TTIA—Taipei Main Station to guide you through the station area.



Attention: The transliteration of Chien Tan in Hanyu Pinyin is Jiantan. Therefore you may come across references to Jiantan instead.

Bus (公車)

- Take Taipei City Bus No. 218, 220, 260 or 310 from the north side of Taipei Railway Station main building. Get off at the "Jiantan (劍潭)" bus stop. The Chien Tan Overseas Youth Activity Center should be located across the street towards the southwest direction. The bus fare should be NT\$15. Purchase an EasyCard if you plan to frequently use Taipei's public transportation system.

Taxi (計程車)

- Hail a taxi and show the following Chinese words to the driver : 劍潭海外青年活動中心 (*Chien Tan*



Overseas Youth Activities Center). Most of the taxi drivers do not understand English, although they will do their best to communicate with non-locals.

MRT (捷運)

Enter the Taipei Railway Station.



After alighting from the freeway bus at the stop near the Taipei Railway Station, walk to the Taipei Railway Station building and enter the station by the East 3 Gate.

Go downstairs.



Take the escalator near the post office to reach B1.

Pass through the Eslite Taipei MRT Mall to reach the MRT Taipei Main Station entrance.



After arriving at B1, turn right (or left if you move downstairs by other escalators) and follow the signs leading to the MRT Taipei Main Station. You will have to take escalators to B2, where the fare gates and ticket machines are located.

Buy a single journey ticket/token unless you have purchased an EasyCard.



After arriving B2, purchase your single journey ticket (magnetic card or IC token) at a ticket vending machine. Fare between Taipei Main Station and Jiantan Station is NT\$20.
(*Left*: magnetic card vending machine; *Right*: IC token vending machine)

Proceed to the Danshui Line (淡水線) platform.



Pass the fare gate and follow the signs leading to the Danshui Line platform. Three escalators from the concourse level lead to the Danshui Line platform. One escalator goes directly to B4, where the platform is located. The two other escalators only reach B3, making it necessary to reach B4 through an additional escalator.

Wait for trains.



Wait at Platform 1 for trains bound for *Danshui* (淡水) or *Beitou* (北投). The travel time from this station to Jiantan Station is about 10 minutes.

See the From MRT Jiantan Station to CTOYAC section for instructions on walking to the CTOYAC.

From MRT Yuanshan Station (捷運圓山站) to Jiantan / Chien Tan (劍潭)

Enter the MRT Yuanshan Station



After alighting from the freeway bus at the MRT Yuanshan Station bus stop, walk north to the MRT station and enter the station through Exit 1.

Buy a single journey ticket unless you have an EasyCard.



Purchase a single journey ticket (magnetic card or IC token) from a ticket vending machine. Fare between Yuanshan Station and Jiantan Station is NT\$20.

Proceed to the platform and wait for trains.



Pass the fare gate, move upstairs by escalator, and wait at Platform 1 for trains bounding for *Danshui* or *Beitou*.

From MRT Jiantan Station (捷運劍潭站) to CTOYAC

Get off at MRT Jiantan Station.



Pay attention to the electronic information display system as well as the station arrival announcements in order to know when to depart from the train.

Go downstairs to Exit 2.



Many signs direct you to Exit 2 and the CTOYAC. Follow those signs in the station to move downstairs by stairs or escalator.

Leave Jiantan Station by Exit 2.



Pass the fare gate, and leave the station by the right side of Exit 2.

Walk along the bikeway.



Walk through a motorcycle parking lot, and follow the bikeway.

Cut across a small park to the roadside sidewalk.



Cut across a small park on your left. Then turn right to the roadside sidewalk of Zhongshan North Road (中山北路) and move forward.

Pass a special designed pedestrian underpass entrance.

When you walk along the sidewalk, you'll see a special designed pedestrian underpass



entrance on the right side.

Arriving at the main gate of CTOYAC.



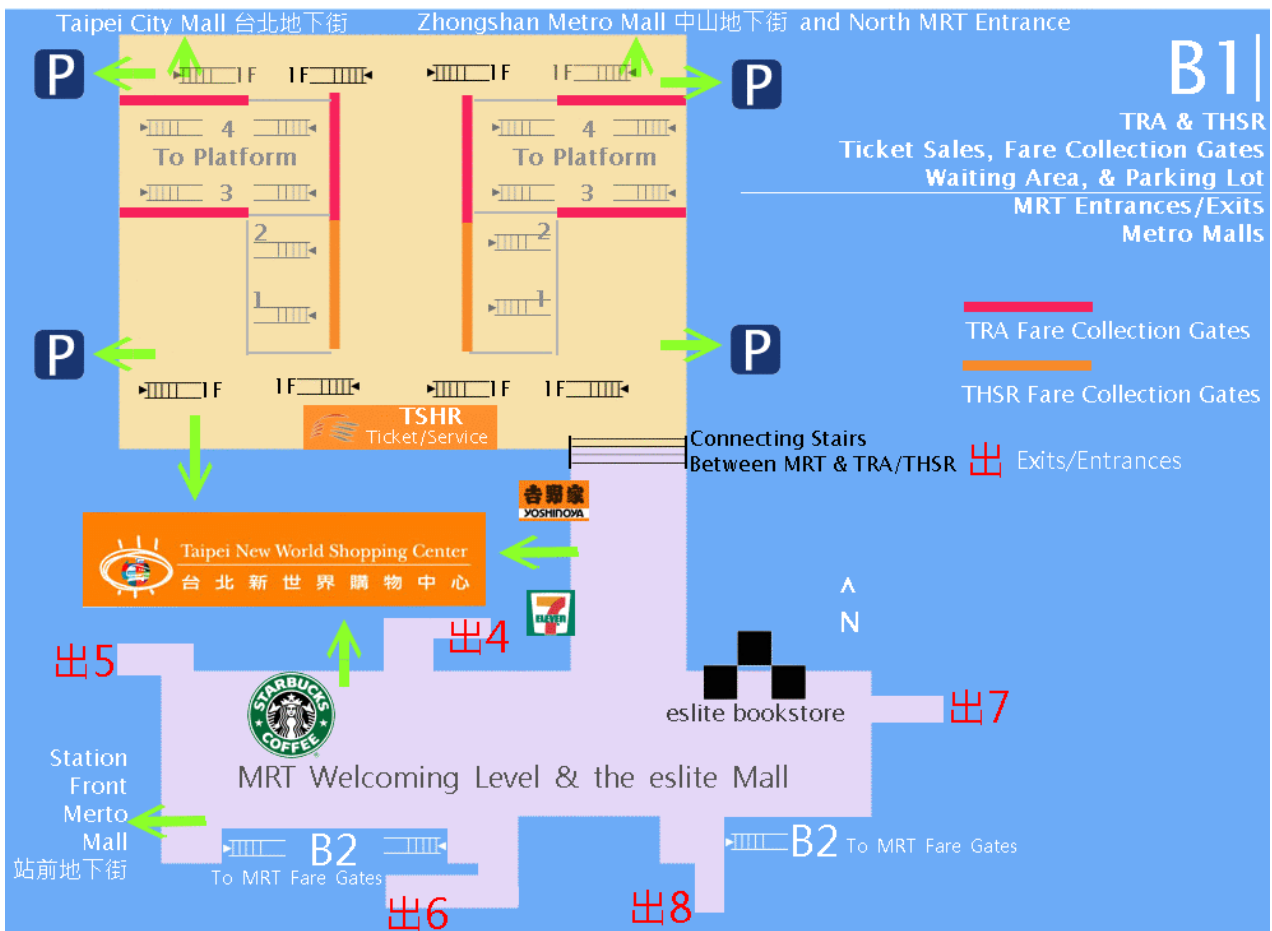
Go through the main gate, and you'll arrive at the main building complex.

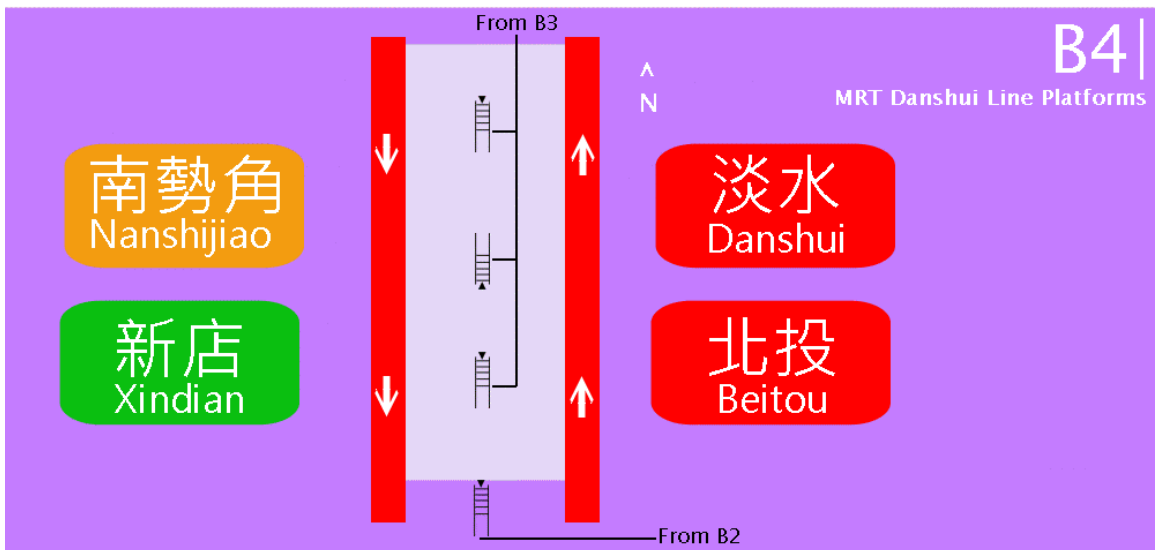
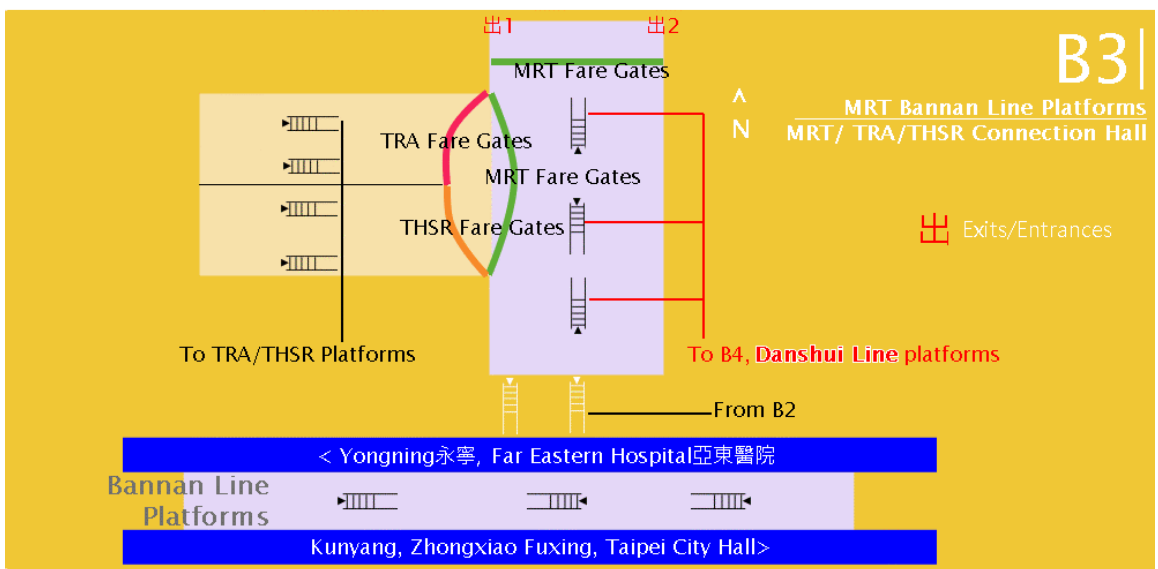
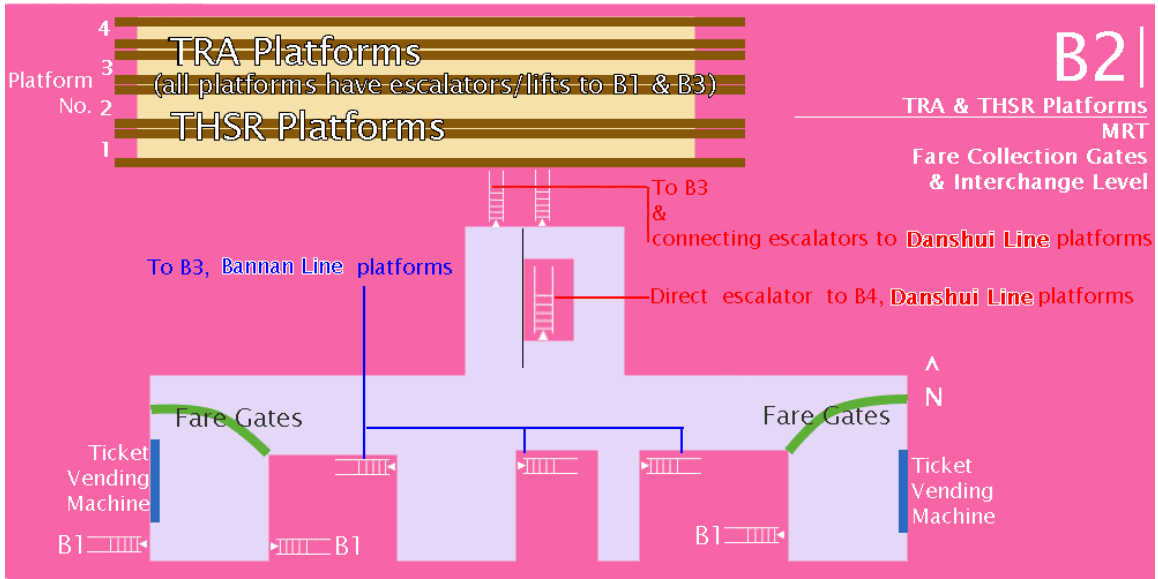
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Taipei Main Station (Taipei Railway Station) Floor Guide






Local transportation 4: City transportation

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Contents

- 1 In the City
 - 1.1 Bus (公車)
 - 1.2 MRT / Metro (捷運)
 - 1.3 Taxis (計程車)

In the City

Bus (公車)

Taipei has a comprehensive and extensive bus system operated by a confederation of fifteen independent bus companies. Many of the routes also serve the neighboring satellite cities in Taipei County. The bus system is fully integrated with the Taipei MRT system with most bus routes having stops near various MRT stations.



Many bus routes are divided into two or three fare zones (called 分段區 or "segmentation zones" in Chinese). Crossing from one fare zone to another requires paying an additional full fare. Crossing over three fare zones results in paying a total of three times the full fare. Usually there are "buffer stops" between each fare zone so that passengers do not face paying twice over one stop.

Passengers must pay attention to an indicator lamp inside the bus that tells them if they have to pay when they get on or off the bus. The lamp displays either the Chinese character for up/on (上, which looks like thumbs up) or down/off (下, which looks like thumbs down). A passenger might pay once when getting on the bus, and again when getting off because of traveling between two fare zones.

Under certain conditions, the bus driver may give the passenger a laminated pass, which the passenger must surrender when getting off the bus. This pass helps the driver to determine the number of fare zones the passenger crossed.

The adult fare is NT\$15. Seniors over 65 and children below a certain height pay NT\$8. Adults who transfer between the MRT and bus within one hour enjoy a NT\$7 discount if they use a regular EasyCard (悠遊卡). Certain seats at the front of the bus are priority seats (called 博愛座 or "universal love" seats in Chinese). Passengers must yield these seats to seniors, pregnant women, or those who need special assistance.

English language support for the city bus system is not perfect. Although bus stop signs do post the name of the stop in English, the route maps and bus frequency information are written in Chinese. Nevertheless, buses have electronic signs that alternate the displaying of information in Chinese and English. Maps at the MRT station do provide notable bus destinations in English. Still, it is recommended that you bring the name of the destination in Chinese in case you need to communicate with the bus driver.

It can also be difficult for a non-local to determine the destination that the bus driving at one side of the street is heading towards. This is because the final destination at either direction is displayed on the bus at the same time.

During the bus journey, the name of the next stop will be shown on LED information displayer twice while leaving the previous stop and approaching the next one. Sometimes it will be accompanied with electronic verbal announcements in Mandarin, Min Nan (Southern Min or Hokkien), and English.

More information about the bus system can be found at the Taipei Bus and Transportation Information System website.

MRT / Metro (捷運)

Taipei has an extensive and well-used Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) or metro system that consists of underground and elevated rail routes, making up of a total of 6 lines at present. Operating hour of MRT is 6:00~24:00, and the headway during 6:00~23:00 is about 3~7 minutes. After 23:00, the headway is reduced to about 15 minutes. Non-discounted ticket fares range from NT\$20 to NT\$65.



MRT announcements are made in Mandarin, Min Nan (Hokkien), Hakka, and English. Taipei MRT is arguably the most English-language friendly transportation system in Taiwan, with all directions, warnings, and instructions provided in both Chinese and English.

Male, female, handicap, and family restroom signs are respectively indicated by gigantic pictures of a man, woman, person on a wheelchair, and a family. Every station has one or more restrooms, although some of which are located in paid area and others are located outside the paid area.

Regulations:

- Please do not drink, eat, or chew gum on the MRT system, even though you are allowed to bring food. A special yellow line before the fare gates indicates where you have to stop drinking or chewing.
- Photography and cell phones are permitted; cell phone reception exists in the underground lines.
- Pets may ride the MRT, but must be placed inside a kennel or be partially inside a bag or backpack.
- Guide dogs may ride without any restrictions.
- Bicycles may only be placed at the first or last car of the train. Certain stations do not permit bringing bicycles through the fare gates.
- Unless there is a critical emergency, do not press the emergency system-wide halt button.



Unlike the Washington, DC Metro system where police may fine or arrest those who violate regulations, Taipei MRT passengers are first given verbal or sign-language warnings if they violate non-critical regulations such as chewing gum.

Taxis (計程車)

Taxis, which are yellow and can easily be hailed on the street, are abundant in Taipei. Unfortunately most taxi drivers do not speak English: therefore, have someone to write your destination on a card in Chinese and show it to the driver.

- Toll free taxi hotline (non-mobile phones): 0800-055-850
- Non-toll free taxi hotline for mobile phones: 55850
- Dial 2 for English service followed by 2 to select a taxi company at random.

Taxi fares:

- NT\$70 for the first 1.5 km
- NT\$5 for each 300m after 1.5 km
- NT\$5 for each accumulated 2 mins. at a driving speed under 5 km/hr

Taxi surcharges:

- NT\$10 for calling a taxi
- NT\$10 for placing baggage in the trunk
- 20% surcharge on taxi fare during 23:00~6:00



A yellow taxi on Taipei's street

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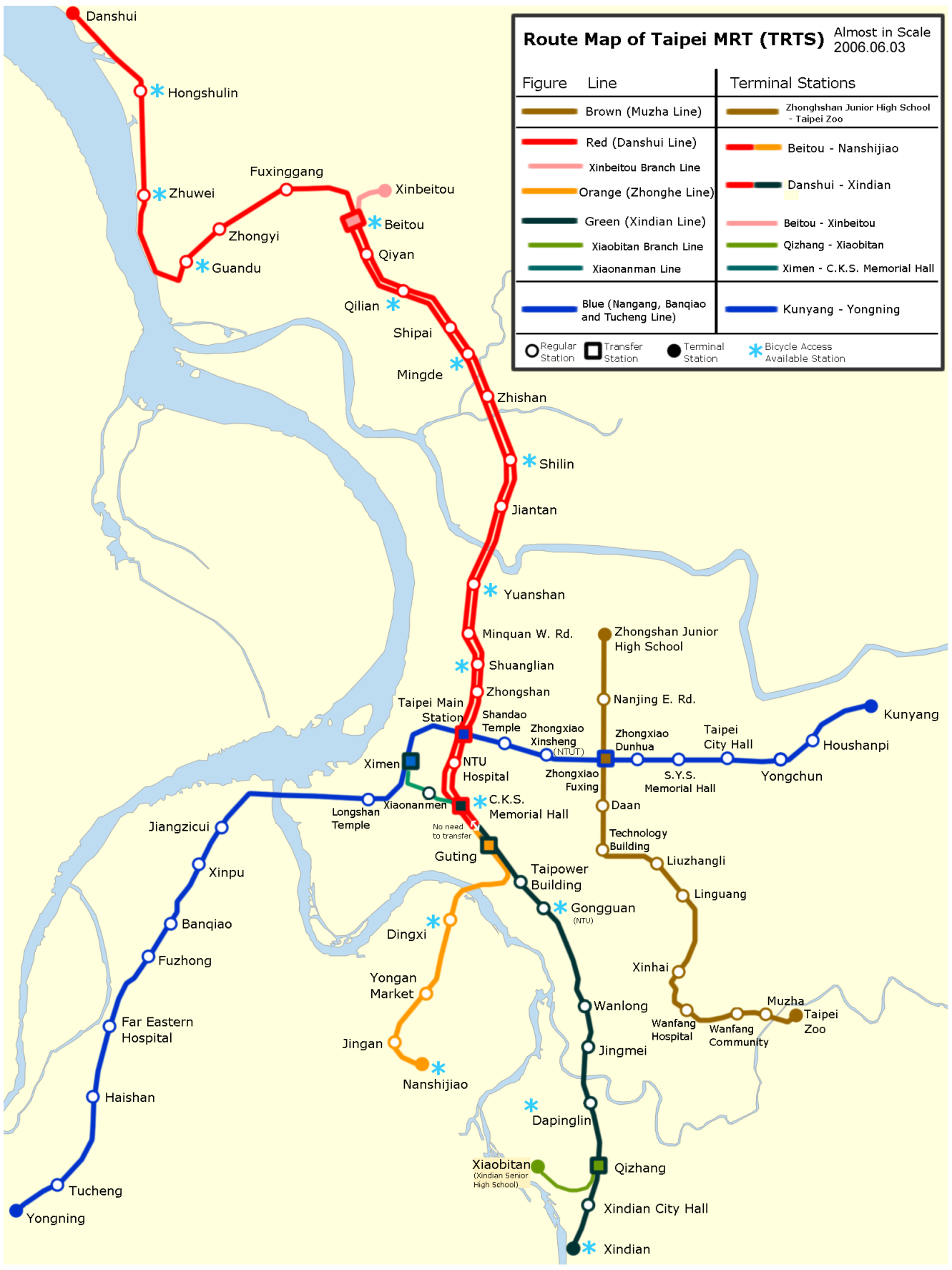
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Route Map of Taipei MRT (TRTS) Almost in Scale 2006.06.03

Figure	Line	Terminal Stations
	Brown (Muzha Line)	Zhongshan Junior High School - Taipei Zoo
	Red (Danshui Line)	Beitou - Nanshijiao
	Xinbeitou Branch Line	Danshui - Xindian
	Orange (Zhonghe Line)	Beitou - Xinbeitou
	Green (Xindian Line)	Qizhang - Xiaobitan
	Xiaobitan Branch Line	Ximen - C.K.S. Memorial Hall
	Xiaonanman Line	Kunyang - Yongning
	Blue (Nangang, Banqiao and Tucheng Line)	


	Regular Station		Transfer Station		Terminal Station		Bicycle Access Available Station
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Local transportation 5: EasyCard

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EasyCard (悠遊卡)

EasyCard is a contact-less payment card based on RFID technology that can be used to pay bus, MRT, and parking fares. Passengers who use the card to ride the MRT enjoy a twenty percent discount on the published fare. Users also get a NT\$7 discount for MRT-to-bus or bus-to-MRT transfers within one hour. If making a bus-to-MRT transfer, the transfer time limit starts from swiping the card at the sensor on the bus. For MRT-to-bus transfers, the transfer time limit starts from swiping the card at the MRT fare gate.



Cards with different stored values plus a mandatory NT\$100 security deposit can be purchased at MRT stations and convenience stores, but student's card should be purchased at MRT stations by your student ID card. The stored value and deposit can be fully refunded if the card has been used more than five times; otherwise, a NT\$20 refund fee applies. Most Wikimania attendees who venture through Taipei primarily by public transportation will meet the five-use refund requirement.

There is also a type of EasyCard called Taipei Pass, which is aimed at tourists. The pass provides unlimited bus and MRT rides as well as discounts at selected tourist attractions, restaurants, and hotels for a limited time period. See this link for details. The following is a list of pass types:

- 1 Day Pass, NT\$250
- 2 Day Pass, NT\$450
- 3 Day Pass, NT\$650
- 5 Day Pass, NT\$1,000

Discounts offered at certain places using the pass may not be spectacular: depending on your travel plans in Taipei, purchasing a regular EasyCard may actually be better than purchasing the Taipei Pass.

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Local transportation 6: Driving

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Driving in Taipei

Visitors may legally drive in Taiwan with their foreign driving license and an International Driver's Permit (IDP) provided that the visitor's home country offers reciprocal treatment to Taiwan's drivers. See the Taipei Motor Vehicles Office website for a list of countries, subnational states, and territories that have reciprocal driver's license recognition with Taiwan.

Driving in Taipei is no worse than driving in New York City. A careful driver should be mindful of following:

- Beware of scooters (called motorcycles in Chinese despite the fact they are not) that constantly change lanes and zig zag around cars. There is a special designated place in front of traffic light intersections where scooters may stop during a red light.
- Beware of taxis as taxi drivers practice offensive driving.
- Always signal when changing lanes or making turns so that the scooters behind you have time to react.
- There is absolutely no turn on red unless a green light (or arrow) is on.
- Speed limit is always enforced by hidden, privacy invading cameras.
- While only the front passengers must fasten their seat belts on normal roads, all car and van passengers must fasten their seat belts on freeways and expressways.
- Try to drive defensively even though neighboring vehicles will give you pressure not to.
- Because the right of way is seldom respected, do signal pedestrians to cross even though they may be hesitant to do so when you stop in front of them.
- When driving on national freeways, bring a map to make sure where the freeway toll station checkpoints are. There is one toll station checkpoint between the Taoyuan Airport and Taipei City. See the Taiwan Area National Freeway Bureau website for details.



Car Rental

Although car rental services are available at the Taoyuan Airport and around the city, we highly recommend you to take advantage of public transportation because of the high parking fees and the lack of space around major streets.

Here is a partial list of rental car services in Taiwan:

- Easy Rent
- Central Auto Rental

All Taiwan High Speed Railway stations have a car rental services counter.


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Local transportation 7: Street addresses

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<p> English • 中文 (正體/简体) • Help translation</p> <hr/> <h2>Street addresses</h2> <p>Taipei's street address system is extremely logical and well organized. Major roads are divided into sections to prevent street numbers from growing out of control. For instance, Zhongshan North Road is divided into seven sections.</p> <p>Even numbers are located on one side. Odd numbers are located on the other. Alleyways are numbered consecutively with regular street numbers: if you wanted to find Alley 55 of Zhongshan North Road Section 6, it would probably be located two buildings that are marked as street numbers 53 and 57.</p> <p>East-West Roads in downtown Taipei are called East Roads if they are located east of Zhongshan North/South Road and are called West Roads if they are located west of Zhongshan North/South Road. North-South Roads in downtown Taipei are called North Roads if they are located north of Civil Boulevard and are called South Roads if they are located south of Civil Boulevard.</p> <p>Many streets of downtown Taipei are named after geographical places in mainland China. If you are at Chongqing North Road and you know that Chongqing is located in western China, then you know that you are in western Taipei.</p> <p>While the Taipei City Government uses the Hanyu Pinyin system to romanize Chinese words in English, many establishments either use a hybrid Wade-Giles System and Chinese Postal Map Romanization System or the ROC central government endorsed Tongyong Pinyin. Therefore, it is extremely helpful that you carry the Chinese address with you.</p> <p>If you really get lost in Taipei, go to the nearest police station for help or dial one of the useful numbers in the Health, Safety, & Accessibility section. Service staff at banks, hotels, and information desks of department stores or MRT stations will do their best to find a way to communicate with you. Taipei has a high concentration of English language schools, meaning that one could possibly go into one of these schools to ask for directions in English.</p>							



Naming example: Bei Ping is the old name of Beijing. Bei Ping W. Rd. is in the center of Taipei City.

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Local transportation 8: To other parts of Taiwan

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 English • [中文 \(正體/简体\)](#) • [Help translation](#)

Those interested in venturing outside of the Greater Taipei Region have various public transportation options. The Taipei Main Station is actually a region rather than a particular station where all public ground transportation systems converge: it consists of the Taipei Railway Station, the MRT Taipei Main Station, the Taipei Intercity Bus Terminal, the northern terminus of the Taiwan High Speed Rail, and two branch stations of the Kuo-Kuang Motor Transport Company. Songshan Domestic Airport serves domestic flights to the rest of the Republic of China administered territories.

Contents

- 1 Highway buses
 - 1.1 Highway bus terminals at the Taipei Main Station
- 2 High Speed Railway
- 3 Taiwan Railway
- 4 Air Travel

Highway buses

Most freeway buses that travel on the western part of Taiwan drive on Taiwan's National Freeway network. Baring traffic jams, traveling from Taipei to Taichung or Kaohsiung by bus is faster than traveling by train. Unfortunately English language assistance for these highway buses is rather poor, and not all signs at highway bus stops or terminals have English on them.



Taipei Intercity Bus Terminal

Highway bus terminals at the Taipei Main Station

Because of Kuo-Kuang's former status as a government monopoly, Kuo-Kuang has several bus terminals in the area.

- Taipei Intercity Bus Terminal: Freeway buses of other companies, such as U-Bus (統聯客運) and Aloha (阿羅哈客運), depart from here. Kuo-Kuang's passengers whose

destination is somewhere in Northern Taiwan (Including Hsinchu, Miaoli, Jinshan, Yilan, Taoyuan and Jhongli), excluding Keelung and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TTIA), should board here.

- Kuo-Kuang Taipei East Station: Passengers whose destination is Keelung or TTIA should board here.
- Kuo-Kuang Taipei West Station: Passengers whose destination is in Central or Southern Taiwan (Including Taichung, Tainan and Kaohsiung) should board here.



Kuo-Kuang Freeway Bus

High Speed Railway

With services having started early this year, the Taiwan High Speed Railway has become the fastest way of traveling through western Taiwan by ground. The journey from the northernmost terminal at the Taipei Main Station to the southernmost Kaohsiung Zouying Station only takes about 90 minutes. The ticket fares between Taipei and Zouying are NT\$1,490 for Standard Class and NT\$2,440 for Business Class. Although all stations provide self-service ticket vending machines, these machines are often out of order. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged to buy the tickets directly from the staff at the ticketing service windows. Please tell the ticketing staff if you would like to keep the ticket as a souvenir when you exit the system.

- **Taiwan High Speed Railway**

website: <http://www.thsrc.com.tw>

Taiwan Railway

The regular railway system covers the entire island, making it convenient to travel to other cities or attractions fairly easily. Fares and time tables may be found at the **Taiwan Railway Administration** official web site. See also the English Wikipedia articles Taiwan Railway Administration and Railways in Taiwan for additional information.

- Taipei service desk toll-free number
0800-231919
- List of service phone number for each station
- Train ticket information

English language support of the Taiwan Railway System is not strong. Many of the English and Chinese signs can be confusing for those who do not regularly use the train service. Again, familiarize yourself with the English Wikipedia article on the Taiwan Railway



High Speed Railway Banciao Station



HSR Taichung Station platform

System to reduce this confusion in advance.

Air Travel

Although Taiwan's domestic airline market is on the decline, traveling by air is still convenient if one wants to travel to the eastern coast of Taiwan, and is a necessity if one wishes to visit the outlying islands of Kinmen, Matsu, Penghu, Lanyu, and Lutaο. The four main carriers that provide domestic flights are Far Eastern Air Transport, Mandarin Airlines (subsidiary of China Airlines), TransAsia Airways, and Uni Air (subsidiary of EVA Air). All domestic flights from Taipei departed at the Songshan Domestic Airport, which is located in downtown Taipei. When traveling to the airport by taxi, make it clear to the driver that you intend to go to the Taipei Songshan Airport rather than the International Airport in Taoyuan.

Taipei Songshan Airport provides convenient flights to Chiayi, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Pintong, Hengshuen, Hualien, Taitung, Kinmen, Penghu(Makung), and Matsu.

Passengers who wish to travel to Orchid Island (Lanyu, 蘭嶼), Green Island (Lutaο, 綠島), Cimei Island (七美), or Wang-an Island (望安), should contact Daily Air, who has sole authority over flights to these islands. A stop-over at Kaohsiung, Taitung, or Penghu (Makung) may be required to reach these islands.

Please feel comfortable when flying a domestic flight in Taiwan. The crew are all well-trained and professional; the aircrafts are well-checked and maintained. Language barrier is not a problem as all domestic flight attendants are required to have a good command of English. Some domestic flight attendants can even speak either Japanese or Korean.

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