Taipei Travel Guide

Taipei: Where Tradition Meets Modernity

Taiwan · Generated October 1, 2026 · mycitytravelguide.com/taiwan/taipei/

Things to do in Taipei

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Taipei's skyline and cultural identity, from towering skyscrapers to historic monuments.



Must See

Taipei 101

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Once the world's tallest building, Taipei 101 stands at **508 meters** and dominates the city skyline. The observation deck on the 88th and 89th floors offers panoramic **360-degree views** of Taipei. The building features an innovative **damper system** visible through glass, a perfect blend of engineering and design. Night views showcase the city illuminated in vibrant colors, and clear days reveal mountain vistas extending far beyond the urban sprawl.



Must See

Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

An imposing **white neoclassical structure** built in 1980 to honor Taiwan's former leader. The main building features a massive bronze statue in the central chamber. Honor-guard patrols and drills take place hourly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. outdoors; they are canceled in rain. The surrounding plaza hosts cultural performances and exhibitions. The architecture symbolizes national dignity with its solemn proportions and intricate decorative details reflecting Chinese architectural traditions.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Taipei 101 before sunset to enjoy both day and night views
- The guard ceremony at Chiang Kai-shek Hall is worth timing your visit around
- Bring comfortable shoes for exploring the extensive plaza areas

Museums & Galleries

World-class museums showcasing art, history, and culture with collections spanning ancient artifacts to contemporary works.



Must See

National Palace Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

One of the world's **largest Chinese art museums** with 699,159 artifacts as of August 2026. The collection includes **ancient jade carvings, porcelain, and calligraphy** spanning thousands of years. The famous **Jadeite Cabbage** (jade vegetable carving) is a must-see highlight. Multiple exhibition halls display rotating collections covering imperial history, bronze vessels, and Buddhist art. The multimedia presentations provide deep context for understanding Chinese civilization and cultural evolution.



Top Pick

Taipei Fine Arts Museum

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **contemporary art institution** featuring six exhibition galleries spanning 3,600 square meters. The museum presents **Taiwanese and international contemporary art** through rotating exhibitions, performances, and educational programs. The modern architecture creates unique exhibition spaces with natural lighting. The museum's restaurant and gift shop complement the artistic experience. Regular special exhibitions ensure fresh content for repeat visitors throughout the year.



Top Pick

Taiwan National Museum of History

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A comprehensive museum documenting **Taiwan's diverse historical periods** from indigenous cultures through modern times. Exhibits feature archaeological finds, historical documents, and cultural artifacts. The **maritime history section** details Taiwan's role in historical trade routes. Interactive displays engage visitors of all ages. The museum's scholarly approach and multimedia presentations make complex history accessible and engaging for international visitors seeking to understand Taiwan's unique narrative.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Arrive early at the National Palace Museum to avoid crowds
- Audio guides are available in multiple languages
- Many museums offer free admission on specific days—check websites before visiting

Religious Sites

Sacred temples and shrines showcasing Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian traditions with ornate architecture and spiritual significance.



Must See

Longshan Temple

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

One of Taipei's **oldest and most important temples**, built in 1738. This **Taoist-Buddhist temple** honors multiple deities and serves as a spiritual center for the community. The ornate façade features **intricate dragon carvings and colorful tile work**. The temple's multiple prayer halls create a maze-like atmosphere filled with incense smoke and spiritual energy. The adjacent traditional street market sells religious items, snacks, and souvenirs. The temple's historical significance and architectural beauty make it essential for understanding Taipei's spiritual heritage.



Top Pick

Confucius Temple

45-60 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

A solemn **classical Chinese temple** dedicated to Confucius, maintaining traditional architectural principles since 1879. The temple features symmetrical courtyards, traditional wooden structures, and minimalist aesthetic. Annual Confucius Birthday celebrations feature **elaborate ceremonial rites** in September drawing scholars and traditionalists. The peaceful environment contrasts sharply with surrounding urban chaos. The temple's design emphasizes Confucian values of order, harmony, and respect through its architectural proportions and spatial arrangement.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Remove shoes when entering inner temple chambers
- Photography may be restricted in certain sacred areas—ask temple staff
- Visit early morning to experience temples at their most peaceful
- Respectful behavior and modest dress are appreciated

Parks & Gardens

Lush green spaces offering respite from urban energy, featuring botanical diversity, scenic pathways, and recreational facilities.



Must See

Yangmingshan National Park

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **magnificent mountain park** just north of downtown featuring dramatic volcanic landscapes and hiking trails. The park is famous for its **sulfur vents, hot springs, and alpine flowers**. The scenic drives offer panoramic views across the Taipei basin toward the ocean. Spring brings spectacular displays of azaleas and cherry blossoms painting hillsides in vibrant colors. Well-maintained hiking trails range from easy nature walks to challenging mountain routes. Clear nights provide stellar stargazing away from city light pollution.



Top Pick

Taipei Zoo & Panda House

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Taiwan's **largest and most comprehensive zoo** housing over 2,500 animals. The famous **giant pandas** are the main attraction, housed in a climate-controlled state-of-the-art facility. The zoo features natural-looking habitats including African savanna, Asian tropical zones, and polar regions. Taipei Zoo is served by the Maokong Gondola, a separate cable-car service; check its operating status before your visit. Educational programs teach visitors about conservation and animal behavior. The zoo is well-designed for families with multiple rest areas and dining options throughout the grounds.



Top Pick

Botanical Garden

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A peaceful **oasis of botanical diversity** spanning about 8.2 hectares in central Taipei. The garden features **themed sections including Japanese gardens, water gardens, and herb collections**. Winding paths lead through carefully landscaped areas showcasing seasonal flowers. Lily ponds provide tranquil focal points perfect for photography. The garden offers free admission and serves as a favorite spot for morning tai chi practitioners. The tree-lined walkways provide excellent shade, making it ideal for hot summer days.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Bring plenty of water when hiking Yangmingshan—no water sources on trails
- Wear comfortable hiking shoes with good grip
- The zoo is best visited early morning before crowds
- Bring sun protection—many areas lack shade coverage

Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinct districts each with unique character, from trendy shopping areas to historic streets reflecting Taipei's evolution.



Must See

Shilin District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Home to Taipei's **famous Shilin Night Market**, Asia's largest night market with hundreds of stalls. The district extends far beyond the market with residential areas, schools, and shopping centers. The night market offers everything from street food to clothing to games and entertainment. The carnival atmosphere draws both locals and tourists seeking authentic Taiwanese street food experiences. Adjacent areas feature quiet residential streets and small eateries beloved by locals. The district represents modern Taipei's vibrant popular culture and youthful energy.



Top Pick

Daan District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **trendy modern district** known for upscale shopping, dining, and nightlife. Chongshan Road features boutiques and concept stores catering to fashion-conscious crowds. The area pulses with energy from stylish cafes, contemporary galleries, and designer restaurants. Underground establishments feature live music and craft cocktails. The district attracts young professionals and creative types seeking contemporary urban culture. Multiple subway stations provide excellent connectivity, making it easy to explore this vibrant neighborhood's constantly evolving entertainment scene.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Shilin is best explored on foot for maximum cultural immersion
- Shilin Night Market opens around 6 PM and peaks after 8 PM
- Daan District nightlife scene is most active Thursday through Sunday
- Use the metro system to navigate between districts efficiently

Tours & Activities

Guided experiences, adventure activities, and specialized tours offering insider access and curated cultural immersion.



Must See Book Ahead

Night Market Food Tours

2.5-3 hours Book Ahead

Curated culinary experiences navigating famous night markets with expert food guides. Tours include tastings of signature local dishes with explanations of preparation methods and cultural significance. Guides help navigate the overwhelming sensory experience and identify must-try specialties. Learn about Taiwanese street food traditions and regional variations. Small group tours create camaraderie among participants. Tours typically visit multiple markets and accommodate dietary preferences. This is an excellent introduction to Taiwanese food culture for first-time visitors.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Taipei City Walking Tours

2-4 hours Book Ahead

Professional guided walking tours covering heritage districts, cultural landmarks, and hidden local gems. Expert guides provide historical context and insider stories bringing Taipei's past to life. Tours range from short neighborhood explorations to full-day heritage journeys. Small group sizes enable meaningful interaction and personalized experiences. Guides speak English, Mandarin, and other languages. The tours reveal lesser-known attractions often missed by independent travelers. Advance booking recommended during peak seasons for popular routes.



Top Pick

Beitou Hot Spring Resort Experience

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Traditional hot spring bathing experiences in natural geothermal areas north of downtown. Beitou district features multiple public bathhouses and luxury resorts utilizing naturally heated mineral waters. The area's spa culture dates back to Japanese colonial times. Public bathhouses offer affordable authentic experiences while resorts provide premium amenities. Different water temperatures and mineral compositions offer varying therapeutic benefits. The surrounding landscape features hiking trails and nature reserves complementing thermal experiences. Evening visits create magical experiences as steam rises through illuminated gardens.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book guided tours in advance during peak season
- Wear comfortable shoes suitable for uneven night market surfaces
- Bring cash for street food—many vendors don't accept cards
- Hot springs have strict etiquette—familiarize yourself before visiting

Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby destinations easily accessible by public transport offering natural beauty, cultural sites, and adventure activities.



Must See

Jiufen Old Street

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **charming historic hillside village** about an hour from downtown featuring traditional red lanterns, narrow pedestrian streets, and nostalgic atmosphere. The village preserves pre-modern architecture and lifestyle. Teahouses serve traditional oolong tea ceremonies with mountain views. Street food vendors offer local specialties like taro balls and mochi. The narrow alleyways wind uphill creating picturesque photo opportunities. Evening visits capture the village's magical ambiance as lanterns illuminate steep stone pathways.



Must See

Shifen Waterfall & Sky Lanterns

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Taiwan’s largest curtain-type waterfall, about 20 meters high and 40 meters wide. Shifen village is famous for the **sky lantern festival** where thousands of glowing paper lanterns float skyward creating ethereal nighttime vistas. Visitors can purchase and release their own lanterns while making wishes. Hiking trails lead to scenic viewpoints overlooking the waterfall. The area features traditional village charm with local eateries and craft shops. The combination of natural beauty and cultural tradition makes it Taiwan's most iconic tourist experience attracting photographers and romantics.



Top Pick

Yehliu Geopark

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **dramatic coastal rock formation area** on the northern coast featuring unusual Queen's Head and other geologically sculptured rocks. The geopark showcases millions of years of geological processes through distinctive stone formations eroded by wind and water. Walking paths navigate among the towering rocks offering constantly changing perspectives. The coastal location provides spectacular ocean vistas and fresh sea air. Sunset casts dramatic shadows across the rock formations creating photographers' paradise. The visitor center explains geological formations and local ecology, enhancing appreciation of this natural wonder.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Day trips are best accessed via MRT or bus—local transport is efficient and inexpensive
- Jiufen and Shifen can be combined in a single day trip
- Sky lanterns are sold locally in Shifen; check current arrangements before visiting.
- Bring sun protection for coastal day trips—limited shade available

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Taipei, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Balle Balle Indian Restaurant & Bar □□□□ □□□□ ★★★★★ 4.9 (23,062)

1-2 hours

Map

Balle Balle Indian Restaurant & Bar □□□□ □□□□ is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.9★ from 23062 reviews. Located at 105, Taiwan, Taipei City, Songshan District, Fushi Village, Guangfu N Rd, 12□ 1□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:45 PM

Veggienius - Taipei Branch★★★★★ 4.9 (12,447)

1-2 hours

Map

Veggienius - Taipei Branch is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.9★ from 12447 reviews. Located at 105, Taiwan, Taipei City, Songshan District, Zhongzheng Village, Section 3, Nanjing E Rd, 275□ 2□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Lei Hou Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (857)

1-2 hours

Map

Lei Hou Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.8★ from 857 reviews. Located at No. 57□ , Chang'an W Rd, Jiantai Village, Datong District, Taipei City, Taiwan 103.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 8:30 PM

ZEA★★★★★ 4.8 (298)

1-2 hours

Map

ZEA is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.8★ from 298 reviews. Located at No. 5□ , Alley 20, Lane 300, Section 4, Ren'ai Rd, Dunhuang Village, Da’an District, Taipei City, Taiwan 106.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 6:30 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 6:30 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 6:30 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 – 10:30 PM

Restaurant A★★★★★ 4.7 (318)

1-2 hours

Map

Restaurant A is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.7★ from 318 reviews. Located at 106, Taiwan, Taipei City, Da’an District, Yicun Village, Section 3, Zhongxiao E Rd, 282□□□□ Diamond Towers □□ 4□□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Modern Toilet Theme Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (4,618)

1-2 hours

Map

Modern Toilet Theme Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.7★ from 4618 reviews. Located at 111, Taiwan, Taipei City, Shilin District, Renyong Village, Wenlin Rd, 173□ 2F.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM

HOOTERS Xinyi Branch★★★★★ 4.7 (5,934)

1-2 hours

Map

HOOTERS Xinyi Branch is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.7★ from 5934 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, □□□ Songren Rd, 58□ 14□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM

Din Tai Fung Xinsheng Branch★★★★★ 4.6 (6,935)

1-2 hours

Map

Din Tai Fung Xinsheng Branch is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.6★ from 6935 reviews. Located at No. 277□ , Section 2, Xinyi Rd, San'ai Village, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan 100.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 8:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 8:30 PM

SALT&STONE □□ 101□□ ★★★★★ 4.6 (5,323)

1-2 hours

Map

SALT&STONE □□ 101□□ is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.6★ from 5323 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, Xicun Village, City Hall Rd, 45□ 4□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Miznon Taipei □□□□ ★★★★★ 4.6 (483)

1-2 hours

Map

Miznon Taipei □□□□ is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.6★ from 483 reviews. Located at 53, 1□ No. 53 □□□□□□□□□□ Taiwan 106092.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM

Din Tai Fung A4 Branch★★★★★ 4.6 (4,426)

1-2 hours

Map

Din Tai Fung A4 Branch is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.6★ from 4426 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, Xingya Village, Songgao Rd, 19□□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:45 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM

SECOND FLOOR CAFE Breeze Nanshan★★★★★ 4.5 (2,214)

1-2 hours

Map

SECOND FLOOR CAFE Breeze Nanshan is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.5★ from 2214 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, Xicun Village, Songzhi Rd, 17□ 7□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM

Din Tai Fung 101★★★★★ 4.5 (13,730)

1-2 hours

Map

Din Tai Fung 101 is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.5★ from 13730 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, Xicun Village, City Hall Rd, 45□ B1.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:45 AM – 8:30 PM

Le Palais★★★★★ 4.5 (3,142)

1-2 hours

Map

Le Palais is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.5★ from 3142 reviews. Located at 103, Taiwan, Taipei City, Datong District, Jianming Village, Section 1, Chengde Rd, 3□ 17□ .

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:30 PM

Morton's The Steakhouse★★★★☆ 4.4 (6,394)

1-2 hours

Map

Morton's The Steakhouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Taipei, rated 4.4★ from 6394 reviews. Located at 110, Taiwan, Taipei City, Xinyi District, Xingya Village, Section 5 of Zhongxiao East RoadSection 5 of Zhongxiao E Rd, 68□ 45F.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Spring (March-May) offers ideal weather with comfortable temperatures (20-28°C) and abundant rainfall supporting lush vegetation. Cherry blossoms and azaleas peak in April creating stunning natural displays. Humidity increases toward summer. **Fall (September-November)** provides clear skies, comfortable temperatures (20-28°C), and perfect hiking conditions. The autumn foliage transforms mountainous areas into golden landscapes. **Winter (December-February)** brings cooler temperatures (12-18°C) with occasional rain, though rarely snow. Tourist crowds are smallest during winter months. **Summer (June-August)** features high temperatures (28-35°C) and intense humidity with frequent typhoons possible. Avoid if you dislike heat and humidity. **Best Overall:** October-November for weather, scenery, and manageable crowds.

Getting Around Taipei

Metro System: The Taipei MRT is the fastest and most convenient option with six color-coded lines covering the entire city. Trains run every 1-2 minutes on main lines. Purchase a rechargeable EasyCard (□□□) valid for all public transport. Journey costs depend on distance (low fares). Trains operate 6 AM to midnight.

Buses: Extensive bus network connects all areas with frequent service. Buses are affordable (low fare per trip) and English-speaking drivers are common on main routes. Real-time bus arrival apps show location and timing. Night buses operate 1-5 AM covering main routes.

Taxis: White taxis are readily available, though drivers rarely speak English. Use ride-hailing apps (Uber, Grab) for language-free booking. Base fare is shown on the meter. Tipping is not expected.

Cycling: Taipei has extensive bike lanes and YouBike bike-sharing system enables short-term rentals. Helmets are required by law. Cycling is excellent for exploring neighborhoods at a relaxed pace.

From Airport: Taoyuan Airport Express train reaches downtown in 35 minutes (check the current fare). Airport buses serve major hotels. Taxis and ride-hailing provide door-to-door service for higher cost.

✈ Airport Transfer

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) to city center:

- **The express takes 35 minutes from Terminal 1 and about 38–39 minutes from Terminal 2, a fare to check on the Airport MRT site**
- **The all-stops commuter trip from Taipei Main Station takes about 49 minutes to Terminal 1, a fare to check on the Airport MRT site**

- **Airport Bus (Kuo-Kuang 1819):** To Taipei Main Station in 45 to 60 minutes depending on traffic, a fare to check with the operator
- **Taxi:** Metered ride to central Taipei takes 40 to 50 minutes and costs at a metered fare plus an airport surcharge

Shopping Districts & Markets

Taipei 101 Shopping Mall: Six basement levels feature luxury brands, electronics, and local designers. Spectacular interior design makes browsing enjoyable even without purchasing. Restaurant options span Asian and Western cuisines.

Shilin Night Market: The city's largest night market operates nightly with hundreds of stalls. Street food dominates but fashion, accessories, and novelties are also available. Bargaining is accepted for non-food items. Peak hours are 8 PM-midnight Thursday through Sunday.

Raohe Street Night Market: Smaller, more local night market specializing in food and snacks. The shopping experience feels less touristy than Shilin. Famous for firecracker squid and stinky tofu. Crowds are manageable earlier in the evening.

Ximending District: Pedestrian-only shopping street with youth fashion, electronics, and entertainment. Brands range from international to Japanese and Korean designers. Arcade game centers and cinemas draw young crowds. Shopping here feels vibrant and trendy.

Taipei Fabric Market: Wholesale fabric district offering exceptional deals on quality materials. Suitable for DIY enthusiasts and professional tailors seeking premium fabrics at a fraction of Western prices.

Local Souvenirs: Pineapple cakes are the iconic Taipei snack—multiple established brands operate airport shops. Tea (especially Oolong) makes excellent gifts. Calligraphy art and ceramic items showcase local craftsmanship. Night markets offer unique novelty items at bargain prices.

Department Stores: Taipei has extensive malls (Taipei 101, Breeze Center, Mitsukoshi) featuring international and local brands in comfortable air-conditioned environments. Weekend crowds are substantial at major malls.

Major Festivals & Celebrations

Taipei Lantern Festival (Feb): Massive annual event featuring illuminated lantern sculptures, light shows, and cultural performances. Different districts host thematic installations. The main venue draws over one million visitors. Evening visits offer the most magical experiences with dramatic lighting effects.

Confucius Birthday (Sept): Traditional ceremonial rites commemorate Confucius at the Confucius Temple. Elaborate rituals showcase classical Chinese cultural practices. The event attracts scholars and traditionalists. Photography and respectful observation are welcomed.

Ghost Month Celebrations (Aug-Sept): Traditional beliefs honor deceased ancestors with temple rituals, street parades, and special foods. The month culminates in Hungry Ghost Festival with elaborate ceremonies. Hotels and restaurants offer special menus featuring traditional foods.

Chinese New Year (Jan-Feb): The most important holiday features temple closures, spectacular fireworks, special foods, and family gatherings. Tourist attractions remain open but crowds are substantial. This is an excellent time to experience traditional Chinese culture at its peak.

Dragon Boat Festival (Jun): Traditional dragon boat races occur at various riverside locations. The festival commemorates the poet Qu Yuan with special rice dumplings (zongzi) consumed throughout the month. Community spirit is palpable with both competitions and festivities.

Mid-Autumn Festival (Sept-Oct): Family celebrations featuring mooncakes, lanterns, and reunion dinners. Night markets and temples host festivities. The festival symbolizes family togetherness and is wonderfully atmospheric for visitors witnessing cultural traditions.

5-Day Taipei Itinerary

Day 1 - Modern Taipei: Start at Taipei 101—take the elevator to the observation deck for skyline views. Lunch at 101 shopping mall. Afternoon stroll through Daan District's trendy boutiques and cafes. Evening visit Shilin Night Market for authentic street food and local atmosphere. Return to hotel for rest.

Day 2 - Heritage & Culture: Morning visit Longshan Temple to experience Taiwan's spiritual traditions. Explore Dihua Street's historic alleyways and traditional shops. Lunch at local eatery serving authentic cuisine. Afternoon at National Palace Museum viewing world-class Chinese art collection. Dinner in upscale Taipei restaurant featuring contemporary Taiwanese cuisine.

Day 3 - Nature & Outdoors: Full day excursion to Yangmingshan National Park. Take a bus or drive to Yangmingshan’s trailheads; the Maokong Gondola is elsewhere in Taipei. Pack picnic lunch. Afternoon explore sulfur vents and mountain flora. Return to downtown for relaxing evening in Beitou hot spring resort. Dinner featuring local mountain specialties.

Day 4 - Day Trip Adventures: Early departure for Allow extra time for the day trip: Jiufen and Shifen are separate stops, and the journey between them adds travel time. Lunch on local specialties. Afternoon continue to Shifen village for sky lantern release experience and waterfall viewing. Return evening with nostalgic rooftop city views. Casual dinner near hotel.

Day 5 - Art & Relaxation: Morning visit Taiwan National Museum of History or Taipei Fine Arts Museum based on interests. Lunch at museum café. Afternoon stroll through Botanical Garden with seasonal flowers. Visit Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall for ceremonial guard-changing spectacle. Final evening revisit favorite neighborhood for last-minute shopping and dinner. Pack souvenirs and prepare for departure.

Instagram & Photography Locations

Taipei 101 (Golden Hour): Photograph the building at sunset with surrounding cityscape. Evening illumination creates dramatic vertical lines. Best from Elephant Mountain viewpoint for elevated perspectives. Morning mist creates ethereal moody shots.

Longshan Temple (Incense Smoke): Capture billowing incense creating atmospheric effects. Early morning provides softer lighting. The ornate façade details are stunning with macro photography. Evening lantern illumination transforms the temple into magical wonderland.

Jiufen Old Street (Lantern Light): Evening photography captures traditional red lanterns glowing against stone architecture. Narrow alleyways create intimate framing. Steam from teahouses adds atmospheric elements. Crowded pedestrian movement adds authentic energy to shots.

Elephant Mountain Summit (City Views): Sunrise captures dramatic color gradients across cityscape. Taipei 101 dominates foreground with surrounding mountains and distant ocean. Clear days offer exceptional clarity. Evening sunset and city light-up create different moods from morning visits.

Shifen Sky Lanterns (Night): Thousands of glowing lanterns create magical moments. Release timing at dusk offers best lighting for lantern illumination combined with twilight sky. Crowd participation adds human element to landscape photography.

Yehliu Geopark (Sunset): Dramatic coastal rock formations are spectacular during golden hour. The Queen's Head formation is iconic but less dramatic than wider landscape shots. Incoming tide creates interesting foreground water elements. Clear days provide sharp detail across distant cliffs.

Beitou Hot Spring (Mist & Light): Evening steam rising from mineral-rich water creates atmospheric photography. Surrounding mountains frame geothermal landscape. Night photography reveals illuminated resort features. Misty mornings offer moody natural lighting.

Electrical Information

Voltage: Taiwan uses 110V AC, 60Hz electrical system.

Plug Types: Taiwan uses Type A (two flat parallel pins) and Type B (two flat pins plus round grounding pin) outlets. These are the same as used in the United States.

What You Need: Travelers from most countries will need power adapters. Check your device's voltage rating (usually printed on the adapter)—most modern electronics support 100-240V and simply require a plug adapter without a voltage converter. Dual USB chargers are recommended for charging multiple devices efficiently.

Where to Buy Adapters: Airport shops, convenience stores (7-Eleven, FamilyMart), electronics shops (Breeze, Taipei Electronics), and hotel front desks sell adapters and converters. Prices are reasonable (150-300 TWD). It's wise to carry your own adapter from home for peace of mind.

Voltage Converters: Devices with 110V-only ratings require actual converters not just adapters. Most travel converters are heavier and bulkier than simple adapters. If possible, bring dual-voltage devices to avoid converter hassles.

Taipei Cuisine & Must-Try Dishes

Beef Noodles (□□□): Taiwan's iconic noodle dish featuring tender braised beef in rich spiced sauce over wheat noodles. The savory umami-rich sauce reflects Chinese culinary traditions. Different restaurants offer signature variations. Expect to spend 80-150 TWD for a quality bowl. This is an essential Taiwanese experience for first-time visitors.

Xiaolongbao (□□□): Delicate soup dumplings with thin wrappers encasing pork filling and gelatinous broth. These require careful eating—gently bite to access the hot broth inside. Steamed dumplings arrive piping hot on bamboo trays. Reputable teahouses serve exceptional quality. Five to eight dumplings typically cost 50-80 TWD.

Stinky Tofu (□□□): Pungent fermented tofu beloved by locals despite its challenging aroma. The flavor is milder than the smell suggests—savory, umami-rich, and slightly spicy. Street vendors serve deep-fried pieces with special sauce. An adventurous must-try for those open to unique flavors. Typical cost: 50-80 TWD.

Oyster Omelette (□□□): Fresh oysters combined with egg batter creating crispy exterior and custardy interior. Topped with sweet-savory sauce and served piping hot. Night markets consistently offer quality versions. The combination of textures and flavors is addictive. Price: 40-80 TWD per serving.

Mochi & Taro Balls (□□ & □□): Chewy glutinous treats served in hot or cold sweet soup. Taro balls have earthy flavor while mochi varieties offer different tastes. Popular as desserts in night markets and dedicated dessert shops. Refreshing on hot days. Typical cost: 30-50 TWD.

Tea Culture (□□□): Taiwan's oolong tea is world-renowned with complex flavors reflecting elevation and terroir. Dedicated teahouses offer proper tea ceremonies with multiple infusions showcasing tea's evolution. Tea houses range from humble neighborhood spots (30-50 TWD per pot) to upscale establishments (150-300 TWD+). The tea ceremony ritual is as important as the flavor.

Dining Etiquette: Tipping is not customary in Taiwan. Menus are frequently visual with pictures aiding ordering. Popular restaurants operate on first-come-first-served basis—expect queues during meal times. Lunch typically occurs 11:30 AM-1:30 PM while dinner rushes happen 5:30-8:30 PM. Many small restaurants close between lunch and dinner service.

Tourist Passes

Taipei Pass (Unlimited)

Taipei Fun Pass products vary; the Unlimited version has 1-, 2-, and 3-day options, with coverage and included attractions depending on the product. Check the specific Fun Pass product: some include admission to selected attractions, while others are transport-only. The unlimited public transport is particularly valuable for frequent travelers. Cost-benefit analysis shows excellent savings for active tourists utilizing multiple attractions. Best purchased at airport, convenience stores, or hotel desks.

www.taipeimetro.gov.tw