

Taipei GP Travel Guide

Welcome to Taipei! 歡迎來到臺北!

Compiled by Hans Wang.

“What can I help you?” should be the first sentence most of the judges say when they arrive a match, and this is why we are all gathered here, to help players play more fairly, to help the event run more smoothly. This guide is also for the same purpose, to help you all to have a great time here.

I hope you all like this city, my hometown.

To some of you who had come Taipei two years ago for the GP, this travel guide is based on the one you had two years ago, with some changes; to those who didn't come in 2014, I hope this travel can help you well.

This edition of Taipei Travel Guide will be including few parts you may interest in and may need to know: Language and Traveling Information, Transportation Guides, Scenic Spots, Restaurants, Night Markets, Entertainment and finally, Magic Stores. I'll also share some of my best-love places (in my opinion!) for dining, sight-seeing, or shopping, which you may not normally be found on a travel guide.

So, are you ready? You have 50 minutes, you may begin.

Which you may already know before you start:

Judge Hotel:

Chientan Youth Activity Center (救國團劍潭青年活動中心) (MRT Station: Tamsui-Xinyi Line, Jiantan station)

No.16, Sec. 4, Jhongshan N. Rd., Shilin District, Taipei City 111, Taiwan(R.O.C.)

<http://chientan.cyh.org.tw>



Event Venue:

Taipei Expo Park - Expo Dome (臺北市花博公園 -- 花博爭豔館) (

MRT station: Tamsui-Xinyi Line, Yuanshan station)

Address : No.1, Yumen St., Zhongshan Dist., Taipei City 104, Taiwan (R.O.C.) (臺北市中山區玉門街1號)

<http://www.taipei-expopark.tw/english>

MRT YUANSHAN station, exit 1



Traveling Information

Language

Chinese is the official language in Taiwan, and written in Traditional Chinese opposed to the Simplified Chinese in China. Basically, signs will be written in Chinese and English, so it won't be a big problem if you can't read Chinese; but kindly note that in Taiwan, we don't have official "pronunciation system" in Rome Characters, so if you found two Road names are spelt differently, they could probably all be the same one. So, just speak it out....

Most young Taiwanese (Taipei-er) can speak a little English, so don't be afraid of asking them in English if you have any problem or getting lost, I believe you can get your answer. Or, you can call me at 886-926-209-296 anytime, 24-7. (Roaming fee may occur)

Currency

The NTD (NT\$, also represented with 元 in Taiwan) is the Taiwan currency. 1 USD equals about 33 NTD and 1 EUR equals around 38 NTD. Credit cards (VISA and Mastercard) are acceptable in most of the stores, but if you're going to visit some small restaurants or night markets, those places are cash only.

Unlike other South-East-Asian Countries, in Taiwan, you can only exchange currency in banks (or airport), which only open in the weekdays till 15:30, so we'd suggest you to make the currency exchange in your hometown. Some banks will charge for exchange fee, so if you're not going to change for a big amount, I'll suggest you to choose Taiwan Bank.

Useful Phrases for Communication

| Phrase | Means... | Pronounce of... | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 早安 | Good morning | /Zhao An/ | ザオ アン |
| 午安 | Good afternoon | /Wu An/ | ウー アン |
| 晚安 | Good night | /Wan An/ | ワン アン |
| 你好 | Hello | /Ni Hao/ | ニー ハオ |
| 謝謝 | Thank you | /Shie Shie/ | シェ シェ |
| 再見 | Good bye | /Zai Jian/ | ザイ ジェン |
| 不好意思 | Excuse me | /Bu Hao Yi Se/ | ブ ハオ イ ス |
| 對不起 | I'm sorry | /Due Bu Chi/ | ドイ ブ チィ |

| Phrase | Means... | Pronounce of... | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|-----|
| 一 | One | /Yi/ | イー |
| 二 | Two | /Er/ | アー |
| 三 | Three | /San/ | サン |
| 四 | Four | /Si/ | スー |
| 五 | Five | /Wu/ | ウー |
| 六 | Six | /Liu/ | リョウ |
| 七 | Seven | /Chi/ | チー |
| 八 | Eight | /Ba/ | バー |
| 九 | Nine | /Jiu/ | ジュウ |
| 十 | Ten | /Shi/ | シー |

| Phrase | Means... | Pronounce of... | |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 誰的回合 | Whose turn? | /Shui De Hue Ho/ | シェ デ フエ ホ |
| 幾張手牌 | Cards in Hand? | /Ji Zhang Sho Pai/ | ジ チャン ショ パイ |
| 誰贏 | Who won? | /Shui Yin/ | シェ イン |
| 我認輸 | I concede. | /Wo Ren Shu/ | ウオ レン シュウ |



Electricity: AC 110 V, 60 Hz

Timezone: GMT +8

Country code: +886

Cellphone network:

GSM, WCDMA
(S4ll make sure with your courier first)

Emergency Calls:

110 (Police; Ambulance)
119 (Fire)

Weather:

Check with your
smartphone :)

Others

No tips needed in Taipei / Taiwan. Some restaurants will charge extra 10% service fee based on the price. Smoking is prohibited by local regulations in all the indoor places. You can find convenience stores everywhere 24-7 in Taipei, like FamilyMart and 7-11.

Transportation

Airports

There are 2 airports for traveling to Taipei: Taipei Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) and Songshan Airport (TSA). Most of the international flights land at TPE, but some flights from Tokyo and Shanghai will land TSA.

From Taipei Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) By Airport Shuttle Bus - By MRT

You can find airport shuttle bus stops at both Terminal 1 or 2, with 8 routes (to Taipei) running by 4 different companies. All the bus will stop at least one stop at the MRT station (then you can transfer the MRT), but we'll suggest you to take route 1819 which may be the most convenient and cheapest.

The destination of this bus (1819) route will be Taipei Main Station, where you can transfer the MRT. Take the Tamsui-Xinyi Line (Red Line) heading Tamsui Line for 4 stops, get off at Yuanshan station to the venue; Also take the Tamsui-Xinyi Line (Red Line) heading Tamsui Line for 1 stop get off at Jiantan station to the judge hotel.

The bus from the airport to Taipei will take about 60 minutes (NTD\$125-\$150) ; and the MRT will take about 20 minutes (NTD\$30).

By Taxi

You can also take the taxi from the airport directly to the judge hotel. Remember to bargain with the price in advance, the price should be about NTD\$1,200 -1,300, which will take about an hour.

From Songshan Airport (TSA)

Only Zhaoben Xu takes this option, so, can we just skip it?

By MRT

You can just simply take the MRT Wenhua Line (Brown Line) heading Taipei Zoo outside the airport, then transfer at Zhong Xiao Fu Xing for Bannan Line (Blue Line) heading Yong Ning, then transfer at Taipei Main Station for Tamsui-Xinyi Line (Green Line) heading Tamsui Line to get the judge hotel at Jiantan station. The entire journey will take about 40-50 minutes. Or, you can just simply grab a cab to the judge hotel, will cost about NTD \$200.

MRT

Now, there are five main lines in our MRT system: Tamsui-Xinyi Line (Red Line), Songshan-Xindian Line (Green Line), Bannan Line (Blue Line), Zhonghe- Hsinchuang Line (Yellow Line) and Wenhua Line (Brown Line). All the lines are running by Taipei Metro, so don't worry about if you need to get out and get back when you are transfer another line. The Ticket fare is from NTD\$ 20 - NTD \$70 (from Tamsui to Xindian Line), normally about NTD\$20 - NTD\$35.

If you are planning to stay in Taipei for at least two more days before/after the event, I'll suggest you to buy a Easy card then you don't need to buy an one-way ticket every time. The card can be bought at all the MRT station for NTD\$100 (with no deposit). You can also use the Easy card to take a bus or buy stuffs in the convenience stores.

Scenic Spots

Located at the north of Taiwan as the capital of Republic of China (Taiwan, R.O.C), Taipei has been a major hub of communications, transportation, and international exchange. Hereunder, you can find the some of the most famous spots in Taipei and check them out by yourself!

The National Palace Museum



The National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院) is an art gallery and museum collecting ancient Chinese artifacts. Even it's from the same institution with the Palace Museum in Beijing, there are now different as a result of the Chinese Civil War in 1940, which also divide the collections. The Nationals Palace Museum in Taipei boasts its collection as collecting the world's most largest collection of artifacts from ancient China.

Transportation: MRT Tamsui-Xinyi Line, Shihlin station; Then transfer bus: 紅30 (Red 30), 255, 304

Taipei 101

Taipei 101 (台北101), formerly known as the Taipei World Financial Center, is a landmark skyscraper in Taipei. It was the world's tallest building from 2004 to 2010 until the opening of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. Taipei 101 comprises 101 floors above ground and 5 floors underground and designed to withstand typhoons and earthquakes. A multi-level shopping mall adjoining the tower houses hundreds of luxury brands, fashion stores, restaurants and clubs.

Taipei 101 features an Indoor Observatory (89th floor) and an Outdoor Observatory (91st floor). Both offer 360-degree views and abstract visitors from around the world. The Indoor Observatory is open thirteen hours a day (9:00 am–10:00 pm) throughout the week as well as on special occasions; the Outdoor Observatory is open during the same hours as weather permits. Tickets may be purchased on site in the shopping mall (5th floor) or in advance through the Observatory's web site. Tickets cost NT\$450 and allow access to the 88th through 91st floors via high-speed elevator. Every December 31st, Taipei 101 has count-down fireworks to celebrate the New Year, which is the biggest NYE event in Taiwan.

Transportation: MRT Tamsui-Xinyi Line, World Trade Center/Taipei 101 station.



Longshan Temple

Longshan Temple (龍山寺) was built in 1738 by settlers from Fujian, China. It served as a place of worship and a gathering place for the Chinese settlers. The temple has been destroyed either in full or in part on numerous earthquakes and fires.

Taipei residents have nevertheless consistently rebuilt and renovated it, and did so again after the end of the World War II a few months later. Longshan Temple is seen as an emblematic example of Taiwanese classical architecture, with southern

Chinese influences commonly seen in older buildings. Like most temples in Taiwan, the temple worships a mixture of Buddhist, Taoist, and folk deities such as Matsuo.



Transportation: MRT Bannan Line, Longshan Temple station.

Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall

Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂) is a famous monument, landmark and tourist attraction erected in

memory of Chiang Kai-Shek, former president of the Republic of China. The monument, surrounded by a park, is white with four sides. The octagonal shape picks up the symbolism of the number 8, a number traditionally associated in Asia with abundance and good fortune. Two sets of white stairs, each with 89 steps to represent Chiang's age at the time of his death, lead to the main entrance.



Inscribed on the wall above and behind the seated figure are the Chinese characters for Ethics, Democracy, and Science. Inscriptions on the side walls read The purpose of life is to improve the general life of humanity and The meaning of life is to create and sustain subsequent lives in the universe.

Representatives of the armed forces guard the main hall during its every open hours.

Transportation: MRT Tamsui-Xinyi or Songshan-Xindian Line, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall station.

National Taiwan University

National Taiwan University (NTU; 國立臺灣大學), generally considered the top-ranked university in Taiwan, is a national co-educational research university in Taipei. It consists of 11 colleges, 54 departments, 103 graduate institutes and 4 research centers.

The university was founded in 1928 by the Japanese administration during the Japanese colonial era and was known as the Taikoku (Taipei) Imperial University. After World War II, the government resumed the administration of Taikoku University and reorganized and renamed it National Taiwan University on November 15, 1945.

Transportation: MRT Songshan-Xindian Line, Gongguan station.



Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

This location has transformed through history since 1937 as the “Taiwan Sōtokufu Tobacco Monopoly Bureau” during the Japanese colonial time, and after restoration, it was taken over by the Taiwan Monopoly Bureau and renamed the “Taiwanese Provincial Tobacco and Alcohol Monopoly Bureau Songshan Plant”. In 2001, it was appointed by the Taipei City Government as the No. 99 cultural heritage site of the city and renamed the “Songshan Cultural and Creative Park”. This site was once home to the first modernized tobacco Factory in Taiwan, which created tremendous economic value to the nation. On November 15th, 2011, after it officially opened to the public, it has now been transformed into a creative hub of Taiwan.

The concept of an “industrial village” was employed during the initial development of the Songshan Tobacco Factory, and besides the production line, the benefits and needs of the plant’s employees were also taken into consideration for the design of the site. With its large open spaces and courtyards, the site was a pioneering design for industrial plants at that time.

Its architectural style belongs to the genre of “Japanese Early Modernism”, with emphasis placed on horizontal lines, simple classic shapes, and refined workmanship. The buildings were considered to be an exceptional model for industrial plants in that era. The boiler room, mechanical maintenance factory, and tobacco Factory were completed in 1939, and rolled tobaccos began production in October of the same year, with 1200 workers hired in its initial stage. In 1940, the office building and inspection room were completed, with the construction of the entire plant completed in the span of three years and three months.

Transportation: MRT Bannan Line, Taipei City Hall station.



Restaurants

鼎泰豐 (Ding Tai Fong)



Address: No. 194, Sec. 2, Xinyi Road,
Taipei City. MRT Dongmen station
Tel: +886-2-2321-8928
Category: Steamed Buns
Price Range: NTD\$300 - \$600/person

永康牛肉麵 (Yong Kang Beef Noodles)



Address: No.17, Ln. 31, Sec. 2, Jinshan S. Rd.,
Taipei City. MRT Dongmen station
Tel: +886-2-2711-6298
Category: Beef Noodles
Price Range: NTD\$200 - \$300/person

金峰滷肉飯 (Jin Fong Pork Rice)



Address: No.10, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd., Taipei City.
MRT Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall station
Tel: +886-2-2396-0808
Category: Pork Rice
Price Range: NTD\$100 - \$150/person

阿宗麵線 (Ay Chung Noodles)



Address: No.8-1, Emei St., Taipei City. MRT
Ximen sta4on
Tel: +886-2-2388-8808
Category: Thin Noodles
Price Range: NTD\$50 - \$60/person

雞家莊 (Ji Jia Zhuang)



Address: No.9, Ln. 105, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Rd.,
Taipei City. MRT Zhongshan station
Tel: +886-2-2541-8261
Category: Taiwanese Course
Price Range: NTD\$300 - \$500/person

太和殿 (Tai Ho Dian)



Address: No.315, Sec. 4, Xinyi Rd., Taipei City.
MRT Xinyi Anhe staion
Tel: +886-2-2541-8261
Category: Spicy Hot Pot
Price Range: NTD\$600 - \$1000/person

Night Market

As you may know, night market plays an important role in Taiwanese's night life. All of them starts from about five and will stay All midnight, so it won't be a problem if you feel hungry late in the night. Here I list six of the most famous markets in Taipei city and and you must go at least one of them before you leave!

士林夜市 (Shihlin Night Market)



Area: Dadong Rd., Danan Rd., Wenling Rd., Jihe Road MRT Jiantan station

寧夏夜市 (Ningxia Night Market)



Area: Mingsheng W. Rd., Ningxia Rd. MRT Shuanglian station

饒河夜市 (Raohe Night Market)



Area: Raohe St., Sec. 4, Baide Rd.. MRT Houshanpi station

師大夜市 (Shida Night Market)



Area: Shida Rd.. MRT Taipower Building station

通化夜市 (Tunghua Night Market)



Area: Linjiang St., Tonghua St. MRT Sun Xinyi Anhe station

景美夜市 (Jingmei Night Market)



Area: Jingmei St. MRT Jingmei station

Entertainment

Xinyi Xintiandi

Xintiandi is in Xinyi district, the heart of Taipei, close to Taipei City Hall and Taipei 101; It's your best choice to realize what people in Taipei do at night. If you want to go shopping, you have Taipei 101, Shin Kong Mitsukoshi, Bellavita and ATT4 Fun; If you want to see a movie, you have Vieshow Theater; If you want have some drinks or meet some hot girls, you have Room 18, Spark and Mint; Even if you just don't want to waste you time for sleeping, you can also find the biggest Eslite bookstore here open late for you!

MRT Bannan Line, Taipei City Hall station



Ximending

Xinmenting is in the west side of Taipei, which is also the old part of Taipei city. Now, Ximending is the place for teenagers, just like the Shibuya in Tokyo, gathering all the new things for junior high / senior high students after school.

You can find the remaining old South Gate of Taipei City here.

MRT Bannan Line, Ximen station



Guanghua Mall

The Guang Hua Digital Plaza building today consists of six stories above ground and one story below ground. The first story above ground is an exhibition space for electronic products. The second and third stories are the new locations for the 196 vendors of the original Guang Hua Market. The fourth and fifth stories are the new locations for the vendors of Xining Guozhai Electronics Market. The sixth floor is reserved for repair shops, education classes, and offices. The basement floor is parking. The market attracts tens of thousands of visitors each day. It is located on the corner of Xinsheng North Road and Civic Boulevard. The surrounding area and streets are also full of shops selling electronics. Large companies, including Microsoft and Intel, regularly unveil products at Guang Hua Digital Plaza.

MRT Bannan Line, Zhongxiao shinsheng station



Card Stores

Cardmaster

3F., No.23, Sec. 1, Nanchang Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City 100, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Tamsui-Xinyi Line or Songshan-Xindian Line, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall station.

Fantasy Card Shop

1F., No.10, Ln. 94, Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei City 106, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Songshan-Xindian Line, Gungguan station.

Moku

3F., No.11-6, Taiyuan Rd., Datong Dist., Taipei City 103, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Tamsui-Xinyi Line or Banan Line, Taipei Main Station

Magic Star

2F., No.231, Sec. 2, Heping E. Road, Daan Dist., Taipei City 106, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Wehu Line, Technology Building Station

Game square

2F., No.9, Lane 135, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Road, Zhongshan Dist., Taipei City 104, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Tamsui-Xinyi Line, Zhongshan Station

Akmi Games

3F., No.283, Sec. 2, Xinyi Road, Daan Dist., Taipei City 106, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Tamsui-Xinyi Line, Dongmen Station

Friends

2F., No.55, Mingde. Road, Beitou Dist., Taipei City 112, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

MRT: Tamsui-Xinyi Line Line, Mingde Station