

Banqiao still preserves its rich history and cultural landscapes. In order to get in touch with the culture of Banqiao and what it's all about, visitors can take a stroll down the small alleys and streets, enjoy delicious cuisine, taste samples or snacks, and shop in both traditional and night markets. Whether taking a nostalgic train ride or wandering along the north shore for the beauty of its mountains and sea, beginning a New Taipei City journey from Banqiao is a rewarding experience that visitors will not want to miss.



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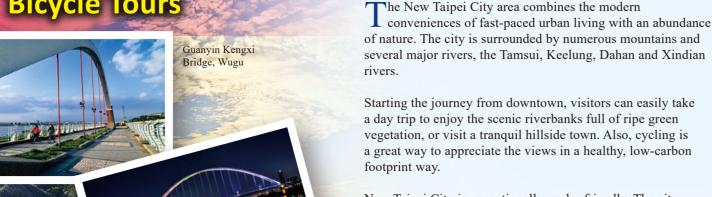












Starting the journey from downtown, visitors can easily take a day trip to enjoy the scenic riverbanks full of ripe green vegetation, or visit a tranquil hillside town. Also, cycling is a great way to appreciate the views in a healthy, low-carbon

Dawn brings a bustling new day to New Taipei City. The

city is alive with urban activity, as well as the beauty

and rhythm of nature: the mountains, rivers and sea

The natural beauty of New Taipei has made the city

a cyclist's paradise. In fact, one of the best ways to enjoy the city's charm through healthy recreation is

by cycling along the river banks in its cycling-friendly

are all abundantly present.

environment.

New Taipei City is exceptionally cycler friendly. The city has numerous bike rental stations and an extensive network of scenic bikeways. Riverside bikeways pass through urban areas along riverbanks with cityscape views. The North Coast cycling route brings one up close to the sea, with the mountains on one side and the beauty of the Pacific Ocean on the other. There are also several mountain routes for a more challenging ride. These routes lead to tea growing areas, old mining towns and other scenic getaways.

### Leisurely Escapes: Riverside Bikeways

New Taipei City is crisscrossed by rivers with broad sandbanks and lush green settings, creating popular places for recreation. Riverside bikeways in the city are safe and friendly for all types of cyclists and families. From the city, you can choose from a number of scenic routes, including the Crescent Bridge that connects Banqiao to Xin Zhuang, and the nearly 20-kmlong route along the Erchong Floodway, with views of the urban and natural landscape along the way. The Bali Left Bank route follows the beautiful Tamsui River past mangrove woods and the Shihsanhang Museum of Archaeology. The Gold Coast Bikeway links to Tamsui past the Old Street area and all of its snacking attractions. This is also a good spot to rest and enjoy

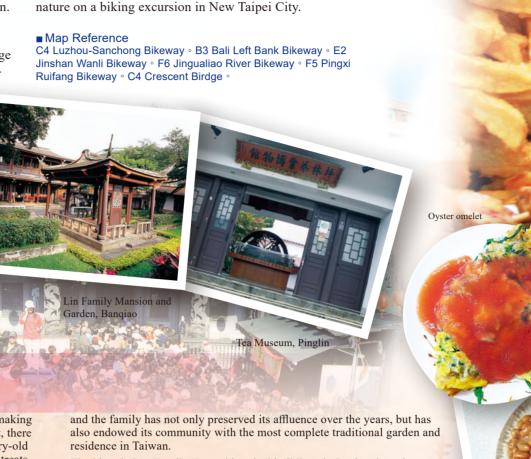
Riding by the Sea: Coastal Cycling Routes

The North Coast cycling route is a good choice, accompanied by the sound of the waves. This route extends along the coast from Jinshan to Wanli past beautiful rock formations, historic old streets, hot springs, and traditional fishing harbors. The scenic beach areas here are also suitable for surfing, snorkeling, canoeing, paragliding and other water sports. From the deep blue sea to emerald peaks, nature follows you on the ride with its world-class beauty.

Challenging Nature: Forest and Hillside Town Cycling

For a challenging hillside ascent, there are several cycling routes in Pinglin to choose from. These routes pass along forests and rivers with scenic tea fields dotting the landscape along the way. The Pingxi-Ruifang cycling route is another good choice, linking to old hillside mining towns and following the branch rail line. In Pingxi, you can also release sky lanterns to carry your wishes into the sky. Visitors may also want to take pictures of and around the famous Pingxi Police Station (Sky Lanterns Museum). Nearby, you can also find the Bike Safety Center, which not only provides basic maintenance service, but also gives bikers the opportunity to visit the multifunctional

From scenic mountains and coasts to lush riverside settings, the natural beauty of New Taipei City needs to be experienced to be fully appreciated. Slow down and match the rhythm of



**Art, Culture, and Festivals: Cultural Tours** 

Amidst a veil of incense smoke, a small temple courtyard can offer peace and an expansiveness of mind. At a Buddhist temple, the ringing of a bell and the murmuring chant of Sutras sets the tone for a moment of quiet to dispel the

Tranquility also awaits in a hillside town. Against the black of night, sky lanterns rise into the skies creating a beautiful and moving image that seems also to lift away the worries of the ew Taipei City is one of the first areas to be developed in Taiwan. It also

has preserved, to considerable extent, the traditional Chinese culture from

its earlier days. This culture has fused with tribe's traditions indigenous to Taiwan to create a fascinating tapestry of culture. Religious faith is an important part of Chinese traditional culture. In New Taipei, there are many Taoist temples that have served as centers of faith and hubs of commercial activity for over a century. Many of these temples are architectural masterpieces made with exquisite craftsmanship and eruptions

of color, their structural design, bell and drum towers, gallery hall carvings,

skillfully crafted ceiling caissons, and the legends that follow, all adhere to a

Religion has also given rise to other cultural dimensions of Taiwan. Traditional foods, ceremony, puppet theater, lion dancing, traditional Taiwanese opera, deity pilgrimages, and even the daily livelihood of the people all have ties to religious culture in Taiwan.

Visitors to New Taipei City can also discover traditional culture in festivals and museums. Examples include the Sky Lantern Festival, Lion Dance Culture Festival, Ceramics Museum, Indigo Dyeing Festival, and the Gold Museum. Festivals are held throughout the year, each with activities and performances that bring the local culture alive. Religion and Temple Culture

There are countless temples in New Taipei. Both Taoist and Buddhist temples can be found on city streets, on mountainsides, and by the sea, indicating the richness of faith in traditional Chinese culture. The temple architecture, chief deities, and legendary stories surrounding this tradition of faith also have an irresistible magnetic appeal.

Zushi temple in Sanxia was built during the Qing Dynasty under the reign of Emperor Qianlong. The renovation was led by artist Li Mei-Shu known as "The Oriental Arts Center". Temple visitors will find it time well spent admiring fine stone engraving and wood carvings crafted many decades ago. Yonglian Temple in Luzhou Chung Lin Monastery, Longshan Temple in Tamsui, and other century-old temples display not only the power of folk religion, but also

of history, it's a microcosm of the history of Taiwan's development, making it an epitome of historical sites. Aside from the bustling night market, there are historical temples and monuments, set in an atmosphere of century-old tradition. The market area is worthy of tourists to savor their elegant treats, including pastry shops, dried bean curds shops, drum factories, and blacksmith

The expansive, park-like setting of the Buddhist Dharma Drum Mountain in linshan fuses with nature and overlooks the sea, providing a space of Zen-like tranquility. Nearby is the internationally renowned Juming Museum established by the sculptor Juming himself. It is the largest outdoor art museum in Taiwan, combining the open space with nature as though it is an art museum in a park.

The expansive, park-like setting of the Buddhist Dharma Drum Mountain in Jinshan fuses with nature and overlooks the sea, providing a space of Zenlike tranquility. Nearby is the internationally renowned Ju Ming Museum established by the sculptor Ju Ming himself. It is the largest outdoor art museum in Taiwan, combining open sculpture space with nature, as though it were an art museum in a park. The setting of unique sculptures that can be seen all around, breaks the commonplace mold for museums. Visitors will rate highly Tamsui's Wuji Tianyuan Temple, which was modeled

enjoying the cherry blossoms in New Taipei City. **Traditional Culture and Festivals** Around the time of the Chinese lunar New Year, the normally quiet hillside township of Pingxi comes alive with the activity of the Sky Lantern Festival. During this several-day event, visitors write their prayers and wishes over the year ahead on traditional tissue paper lanterns that are released together by the thousands into a skyward ascent. It's a sight that you won't want to miss

after the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, and is one of the best-known places for

during the Chinese New Year festivities. Releasing a sky lantern at Pingxi was chosen by CNN as a must-do activity in their list of "52 Things to do in 2013," attracting many tourists from all around the world. Every year during May to June, there is an international Drum Arts Festival in New Taipei City. Based on the historical background of world-famous Xiang Ren He Drum Factory, it popularizes the exclusive drum making strategies and the enjoyment of beating drums through cultural and educational understanding in order to enable people's appreciation of the beauty of drum arts.

August brings about the Sanxia Indigo Dyeing Festival: an art and cultural feast that introduces traditional dyeing techniques and attracts thousands of From October to November, Taishan hosts the annual Lion Dance Culture Festival, which features a lively lion dance competition.

The historic Lee Family Estate historical buildings in Luzhou have been carefully restored and preserved. The family is well-known for their family traditional spirit: plowing, studying, medicine, love, patriotism, and

In addition, there is a perfectly preserved residence in Shenkeng Old Street. It was built with sun-dried bricks and stone slate with one main building and two side buildings around a central courtyard. It has eye-catching red brick arched doorways. Visitors can stop by the Huang Family's Yung An Residence which is also called "The Museum of Minnan-style Architecture".

The local museum and cultural center enables visitors to deepen their knowledge of the local traditions and practices. The Gold Museum in the hillside town of Jinguashi opens a window to Taiwan's early mining history, with displays of mining equipment, DIY gold panning activities, and a mine

Ceramics Old Street, which has over 200-years of history, is located in the area of Jianshanpu Road, Yingge. After the area went through a reorganization, ceramic works of art can be seen everywhere. The old buildings combine with the new art work giving this ancient street a newer and more diversified charm. In Yingge Ceramics Museum, the first ceramics museum designed to focus on pottery culture, visitors are able to experience century-old pottery making techniques as well as the beauty of the ceramic arts. The unique architectural design, public ornamentations outside, and an atmosphere of cultural art enrich

Since the 17th century, Tamshui has become a major trade port among eastern and western countries because of its location. In addition to this point, the colonial period has contributed and enriched this city. Some historical scenic spots include Tamshui Historic Museum, Fort San Domingo, Hobe Fort, and Qing Dynasty Chief Taxation Officer's Residence. In Sanzhi, make sure to visit the Li Tien-lu Hand Puppet Historical Museum

which presents the world of puppetry with displays of antique puppets and

traditional puppet theaters, as well as live puppetry performances.

■ Map Reference B6 Sanxia Old Street • Zushui Temple • C4 Yonglian Temple • B2 Longshan Temple • E2 Dharma Drum Mountain • C2 Wu-Ji-Tien-Yuan Temple • F5 Pingxi Old Street • B4 Taishan • C5 Lin Family Mansion and Garden • C4 The Historic Lee Family Estate • H4 Gold Museum A6 Yingge Cermaics Museum • B2 Tamsui Historical Museum • C2 Li With the streetlamp lights on, venders gather one by one, flooding the evening with warmth, light, and mouth-watering aromas. As the sky darkens, the street market fills the night with the energy of food and friendship.

**Tantalizing Taste Buds:** 

**Cuisine Tours** 

New Taipei City is bustling with fun-filled food fairs and night markets, which play an important role in the daily lives of their neighborhoods, as well as in the experiences of the casual visitor.

The 29 administrative districts of New Taipei City Leach have their own food and market culture. This city will conquer your heart through your stomach; from streets touting foreign cuisine to fresh seafood found in traditional and night markets, you'll fall in love with New Taipei City. Come by for a taste!

Street foods are an excellent way to experience Taiwanese culture. The difficult part is in picking from among the countless eateries in New Taipei City. Night market snacks are the perfect starters with great variety served in small portions. If you're feeling up to the challenge, you're welcome to try them all!

Yonghe soymilk, minced meat on rice, beef noodles, Taiwanese fried chicken, pearl milk tea, and bean curd pudding are just a few of the local favorites. In addition to foods, numerous shopping districts, old streets, and night markets are the perfect places to shop for anything you might need. From clothing and accessories to electronics, even arcade sellers offer very reasonable prices. Just follow the venders' call and let their enthusiasm infect you.

Night Market Snacks

There are night markets the world over, but few have the warmth and energy of Taiwan's night markets. They are the daily haunts of locals, and well-known for their culinary delights. New Taipei City is home to many famous night markets. Near the MRT Fuzhong exit, the Nanya and Huangshi night markets are the kitchens of Banqiao District. Countless venders have set up shop in these streets over the past 30 years, selling Chinese herb-stewed ribs, chicken in sesame oil, freshly stir-fried squid, and many other local favorites. Located just outside an MRT entrance, Zhonghe District's Xingnan Night Market boasts a great conglomeration of bargain clothing stores and light eateries. Sanchong District's Sanhe Night Markets are home to many bargain finds, as well as top quality vermicelli, cuttlefish stew, and delicious papaya milk. The vendor booths at Daan Garden Night Market in Shulin are divided into several sections according to what they sell. All kinds of food, drinks, games, and other entertainment events can be found

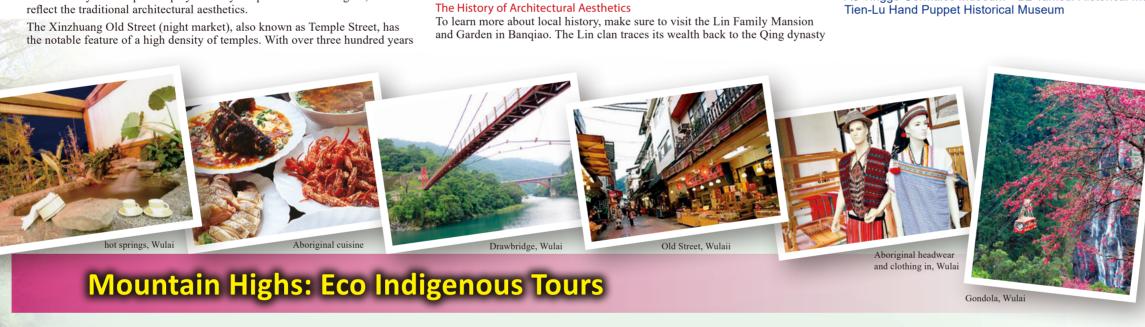
**Food Streets and Districts** In addition to night markets, New Taipei City has

many shopping malls and street markets. Tamsui Old Street is famous for its fish ball soup and agei (meats and vermicelli wrapped in tofu and steamed); Jinbaoli Old Street is known for its great variety of yam dishes and ice creams, as well as its duck restaurants, which sell out every day; Fuji Harbor on the north coast boasts a row of ship-to-plate seafood restaurants, where you can not only pick the liveliest of ingredients, but tell the chef exactly how you would like them cooked. Moreover, the Turtle Roar Fishing Port in Wanli District is rich in crabs throughout autumn and winter which is a tasty local cuisine worth trying. Along Zhonghe District's South Pacific Street, the food markets boast of a great variety of authentic South East Asian foods made by the local immigrant population; Luzhou and Xinzhuang districts are famous for having many century-old temples with must-eat traditional snacks. Last, but not least, Nanmen (South Gate) Market in Banquio district has many traditional Taiwanese pastry stores, where visitors can find a great variety of pastries that are a delight to the eye.

With nice weather all year round, New Taipei City eateries are privy to the best and freshest ingredients for unique local cuisine. If you're not sure where to go, just follow the crowd, or better yet, ask a local, who is likely to go to any lengths to make sure you eat well, even if you don't happen to speak the same language.

■ Map Reference C5 Yonghe Soymilk.Nanya Night Market.Huangshi Market. Nanmen Bakery Street.Xingnan Night Market.Burma Street C4 Sanhe Night Market.Luzhou Temple Street Night Market. Xinzhuang Temple Street Night Market 

B3 Tamsui Old Street • E2 Jinbaoli Old Street • D1 Fuji Fishing Harbor • F2 Gueihou Fishing Harbor



The dawn sun pierces the forest canopy in bolts of golden light, warming the mist into an accelerating ascent. The murmur of the river, the roar of the falls, the twitter of birds, and the activity of the forest creatures in the trees all coalesce into a symphony of nature in Wulai.

pefore the arrival of Chinese settlers, Taiwan was inhabited by Dindigenous peoples, both agrarian flatland tribes and highland tribes that lived from hunting. These natives have developed beautiful songs, dances and ritual ceremonies to mark the seasons. They worship nature and share its fruits, passing on their unique languages and culture across generations.

Centuries ago, the Atayal people settled the mountainous area of Wulai, now a southern district in New Taipei City. Their villages sit high on the mountain and are surrounded by the natural beauty of the valleys, the waterfalls, and the towering trees of the forest. Wulai is also a hot spring area, and earns its name from the Atayal word for

The forests of Wulai were logged during the Japanese occupation period. The trees have steadily recovered their beauty, but vestiges of the era can still be seen in the logging transport trains that have survived. The hot springs and convenient transportation links have further added to Wulai's appeal, as have the richness of the local indigenous culture, which can be appreciated along Wulai Old Street. Make sure to also enjoy a moment's peace with Wulai Waterfall

Wulai is almost entirely forested. The district sits at an elevation of more than 1,000 meters amidst a gathering of 22 peaks. The Nanshi River and its branches flow mightily through the land here, cascading over numerous falls, including the impressive 80-meter-high Wulai Waterfall. The Wulai Gondola takes visitors to the Yun Hsien Holiday Resort at the top of the fall, where old-growth forest and nature trails await. Bird lovers can find dozens of avian species along the route to Laka Road and Mini Gorge, including the Formosan blue magpie, streak-breasted scimitar babbler, common kingfisher, and the Formosan whistling thrush.

Wulai's river trail began life as an Atayal hunting trail. The trail follows the river past waterfalls, forest valleys and other pristine areas that make this a good choice for bird watching and hiking. This area was also featured in the epic film, Warriors of the Rainbow Seediq Bale, a story about Taiwanese aborigines rebelling against the Japanese regime.

## **Atayal Culture**

The Atayal people originally lived in scattered communities in the mountains of Wulai. During the Japanese occupation period, they were later relocated to the area of present-day Wulai Street so they could be more easily controlled.

Today, visitors can experience traditional Atayal architecture at Wulai Atayal Museum. Waterfall Old Street is another good spot to experience Atayal culture, with Atayal dance performances and shops selling traditional handicrafts and food.

The Atayal are known for their textiles, woven handicrafts, and wood carvings. Such items are sold by shops along Waterfall Old Street and Wulai Old Street, along with specialty aboriginal foods: mochi (sticky rice cake), millet wine, roasted boar meat and venison, shellflower rice, and bamboo tube rice. Hot spring cooked eggs are

The ancestors of the Atayal tribe live in the area today known as Fushan. The Tranan tribe is the most indigenous tribe in Wulai. Come take this depthful tour and admire the Five Creek Falls, and hike the Waterway Trail. Visit the Fushan Church and Elementary School, and visit the tribe to experience the simple, slow life and culture of the Atayal people.

The Atayal have long used the hot springs of Wulai for their daily baths. Today, the springs can be enjoyed in a variety of ways. The spring water in Wulai is normally at a comfortable temperature of about 80°C, slightly alkaline, and rich in sodium bicarbonate. It's clear, and suitable for drinking and bathing. Its mineral content is also beneficial to the skin, earning the springs here the nickname,

From forest escapes to bird watching, hot spring bathing, to delicious cuisine, Wulai invites you to experience the beauty of nature and the richness of Taiwan's indigenous culture, all within easy reach of the

■ Map Reference D7 Wulai Old Street.Wulai Waterfall.Yun Hsien Holiday Resort E7 Wulai Atayal Museum



There are many significant rivers that run through New Taipei City, such as the Tamsui River, the Keelung River, Dahan River, and more. The estuary of the Tamsui River resides in Danshui District. In a former era, rivers played an important role in New Taipei City where they were used as shipping channels. There were many bridges that connected to administrative areas. However, due to sediment deposition, evolution of the society, and the development of ground and sea transportation, inland river ports began to slowly disappear. As a result, the bustling street was on its way to turning into dust. Recently, however, these harbors have attracted a myriad of tourists, making them one of the most popular recreational hotspots. Standing on the left bank of the Tamsui River, one can look across the water to the cityscape, green mountains, and ferries, with an occasional fishing boat to remind one that Tamsui was once a small fishing port. Returning to the Right Bank, visitors can stroll along the banyan-lined embankment, gaze out to the sea, and wait for the sun to make its beautiful descent. With nightfall, the lights flicker on and make one even more hesitant to leave.

If you're looking for historical sceneries in Taipei, going along the shore is one method. The Tamsui River, which carried the burden of having the most shipments, is now on its way to becoming obsolete. However, the harbor is being restored to its original beauty. Whether taking the charter boat, the ferry, or the waterbus, the roads all overlap from the northern shore to the inlands of the Tamsui River, the Huajiang Wharf in Banqiao, and many more scenic estuaries that attract hordes of tourists. You can even get across from Taipei City to New Taipei City by taking the ferry or cycling. Both are considered excellent ways of getting the full view of the New Taipei City shore. Waterbus tourists can enjoy views of the plants and critters that dwell there, and moving on to the next scenic harbor is very convenient. You can learn more about the New Taipei City Waterbus here: http://www.traffic.ntpc.gov.tw/webpage/ waterbus0224/

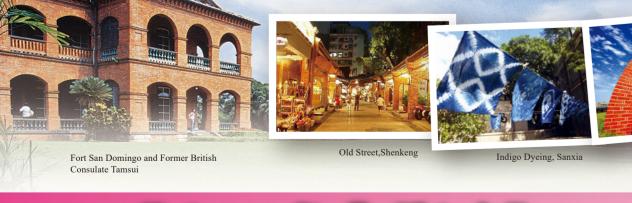
Left Bank: Cycling through Nature Setting out from the beautiful Left Bank area in Bali, cyclists can follow the riverbank to the Left Bank Park, with a welcome breeze blowing over the broad estuarine area. At the Waziwei Nature Reserve to the north, one can see riverside mangroves and the natural wetland ecology. Further along is the Shihsanhang Museum of Archaeology, Formosa Fun Coast recreation area, and Tang Spa hot springs theme park.

The route south from Bali Ferry Wharf passes through a riverside park and a number of scenic spots, including the Mangrove Forest Ecology Exhibition Hall, Guandu Temple, Guandu Nature Park, and Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park.

Right Bank: Strolling and Eating in the Old Street Area Situated on the estuary of the Tamsui River, the Tamsui has evolved over the years from a small fishing village in the Qing period to the visitor hot spot it is today. Despite a steady throng of visitors, the Old Street area still retains a yesteryear spirit, evident in the traces of the town's colonial past and the traditional snacks sold here. On clear days, Tamsui is a popular spot to enjoy the sunset. Lover's Bridge at Fisherman's Wharf offers a panoramic view to watch the sun slip into the sea. And from the hilltop vantage of Hobe Fort, one can see the Tamsui River as it snakes from the city to the sea. Though the era of sailboats on the Tamsui has gone, a ferry ride on the river still offers a novel view of New Taipei. A riverside bicycle ride is also a good way to experience a different side of the city. Whatever the season, a Blue Highway journey in New Taipei is an experience that shouldn't be missed.

### Inland River: Enjoy Riverside and Waterbus Sightseeing by Day or Night

Next to the Zhongxiao Bridge in Sanchong District is the Zhongxiao Wharf. You can rent a bicycle near the Riverside Park and feel the cool breeze when riding along the riverbank. You can also take a Wharf. You can go bicycle riding along the shore towards the New Taipei Bridge and enjoy the rhythm of the wind and the turning of the Huajiang Watergate is the Huajiang Wharf. Upon noticing the in every landscape. Near the wharf and under the Huacui Bridge. Gravel Waterfront Park. To get away from the hot temperature, walk under the bridge to chat with your friends. The waterbuses in New Taipei City are scheduled according to the irregular tides, and even pull all-nighters. One of the most popular tourist routes is the "Huajiang Wharf to the Crescent Bridge." ■ Map Reference



# **Yesteryear Strolls: Historic Tours**

Leave the modern bustle behind and come take a stroll in a small town, on a historic street, where buildings old and new stand together, and a simpler time is not hard to imagine. Let yourself be drawn to a mottled door sign, experience genuine hospitality in a mom-and-pop restaurant, and pick up a few local crafts. Take in joy and contentment as your senses absorb everything in the relaxing atmosphere around you.

The old streets of New Taipei City are steeped in art and culture: the colonial buildings and fisherman's wharf of Tamsui, the indigowashed historical streets and temples of Sanxia, potteries of Yingge, the large, minnan-style residence of Shenkeng, and the hillside town of Jiufen. Whether you're there to see the beautiful old buildings, hear the street cries from street vendors, taste local delicacies, or try your hand at DIY, all your senses will be blessed by the sense of nostalgia.

New Taipei City has its roots in the Qing period and saw the days of the Japanese occupation. Its old streets are a memoir of the former period's climate of economic and political struggles. Storefronts on its historic streets are connected by running pavilions to accommodate shoppers in Taiwan's hot and rainy climate. From the red-brick minnan-style buildings, baroque hillside pedestrian malls, to decadent tradesmen mansions, each brick, tile, sculpture, and doorway seems to tell a story, recalling the first days of local prosperity.

The Old Colonial Streets of Tamsui

Riverside sunsets, historic streets, street foods, and century-old bakeries are the hallmarks of Tamsui District. Walking along, visitors will pass Dutch-colonial Fort San Domingo, the former British Consulate, and the beautiful scenery around Tamkang High School and Tamsui Church. Each landmark provides a glimpse into a period of Tamsui's history. The Shell

Oil Company Storage Site (now Tamsui Art & Cultural Park) and the Douglas Lapraik & Co (Steamship Company) still maintain their grandeur through historic preservation of the old buildings which witnessed the historic Tamshui harbor opening in 1860. From the Dutch occupation to the benevolent works of missionary Dr. Mackay, this little wharf town has seen the extremes of both violence and peace; today, it is a place for relaxation and excellent foods. Sanxia: Red Brick and Baroque-style Streets

The century-old historic streets of Sanxia have the longest connected storefront in Taiwan, at over 260 meters. Local buildings incorporate the baroque and minnan styles, and are known for the running arcade of red brick arches and elaborate facades that connect them. Local proprietors dispense handmade soaps, croissants (a local specialty), and other nostalgic items. Visitors can also try their hand at the resident art of indigo dyeing. Across the way, the Zushi Temple is called the palace of eastern arts for its beautifully carved stone columns, sculptures, and fantastic

Yingge's historic streets are over 200 years old, and crowded with pottery shops, workshops, and galleries; seeing them all would be quite a

Pottery Reigns Supreme Along Yingge's Historic Streets

commitment. Come try your hand at pottery throwing, or visit the Yingge Ceramics Museum, where century-old techniques and artistic pieces lay on display. The confluence of the Tahan River and the Yingge River forms 32 hectares of green open land. Water performances, San-Ying Spatial Art District, and Yingge Art Village are among the newest scenic sites of Yingge. The Famous Tofu Cuisine of Shenkeng The historic streets of Shenkeng are famous for their tofu and beautifully

preserved historic sites. Visitors can follow arcades of red brick arches

to the famous Chennan and Jishuen temples, and to the historic Huang

Family's Yong An Residence, is called the Museum of Minnan-style

Jiufen's Old Street Recalls the Glamor of Black Gold

During the Gold Rush era, Jiufen was at the peak of its prosperity. After the crowd cleared, the towns in the beautiful mountains are what is left of the dim history in the quiet township. Its scenic and cultural beauty are undeniable. Many films have been made here, and famed animator Hayao Miyazaki used it as the backdrop for his film Spirited Away. Here in Jiufen, you can take a minute for yourself in a tea house with a view, eat your way down the historic streets, see the historic Chinese theaters, and visit abandoned old mine entrances. Come for the day, or stay the night at a unique local B&B to enjoy the town's famous golden sunset and peaceful dusk.

Pingxi, Houtong: Taking the Train to the Mountains and Cat The Pingxi railroad was built in 1921 along the valley of Keelung. It

has faced many ups and downs - from its golden years of scenic views to the edge of being suspended for lack of visitors. Today, however, the Pingxi railroad is considered one of most nostalgic and popular sites for tourists with its beautiful mountains. Tourists can visit the architecture of different train stations from Santiago to Jingtong on the Pingxi train route and walk the streets of the historic days. When on a train heading for Pingxi, a visitor will want to take a look at the cats in Houtong, where it is known to many people as Cat Village. Many people even return to visit this wonderful place, and it was even on the list of "6 Places Where Cats Outshine Tourist Attraction" created by CNN in April of 2013. The most unique characteristic in Houtong is the Cat Bridge, where it is the only bridge used by both cats and humans alone. Speaking of Houtong, there are a lot more hotspots to visit there. Nearby, the Shifen waterfall on the Keelung River is the broadest waterfall in Taiwan, a nice activity before or after a visit to the old street nearby the Shifen train station. Upon reaching Pingxi Old Street, make sure to notice the traditional

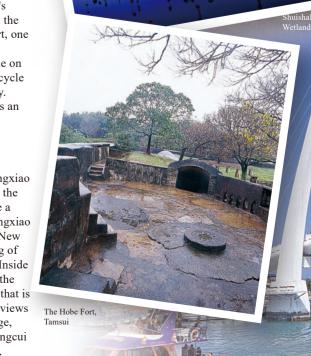
townhouses, which are two-story high. On Pingxi Old Street, one can see where the train used to pass through, which is one of the most significant characteristics about this place. Pingxi is just the right place to celebrate the Lantern Festival, as people can light and send up lanterns into the sky. Not only did The Discovery Channel have this activity in their countdown as the world's second greatest festival, but it also appeared on CNN's list of "52 Things to do in 2013." It was even praised by the world's biggest tourism press, Fordor's, as one of the "15 Festivals to Attend Before You Die" list, which was followed by the Carnival in Rio and the Oktoberfest in Munich. These factors have brought many tourists to Pingxi to light up their own lanterns, causing it to be an international phenomenon for Taiwan. Pingxi is a place you don't want to miss! Finally, next to the Jingtong Train Station is the Jingtong Old Street. Just

follow the railroad, and you will notice the slate tiles that are remnants of the coal mining days. On the streets, you'll find traditional dishes, souvenir stores, famous chicken rolls, and many popular vendors nearby. At night, you can visit the multifunctional Pingxi Police station (Sky Lantern Museum), which is the first building in Taiwan to be shaped like a lantern. Watch an electronic light show at night on a giant Lantern shaped screen made of 193,924 LEDs, or write your wishes on your own lantern and send it into the sky.

B3 Tamsui Old Street • B2 Former British Consulate and Fort San Domingo.

Tamkang University. Tamsui Presbyterian Church • B6 Sanxia Old Street. Zushi Temple · A6 Yingge Historic Street · E5 Shenkeng Old Street. Huang Family's Yong An Residence • H3 Chiufen Old Street • C4 Sanhe Night Market.Luzhou Temple Street Night Market.Xinzhuang Temple Street Night Market • E2 Jinbaoli Old Street • D1 Fuji Fishing Harbor • F5 Pingxi Police Station (Sky Lantern Museum) • G4 Houtong • G4 Shifen • F5 Pingxi;





stroll at what is now one of the most relaxing locations in Zhongxiao the wheel. It is an unforgettable experience for bicycle riders. Inside blue road, you are entering a new place. Nearby is the wetland that is rich in living things, causing every season to possess different views The Hobe Fort, children can play and watch people perform on stage at the Jiangcui

B3 Bali Left Bank Park · Waziwei Nature Reserve · Shihsanhang Museum of Archaeology . C3 Mangrove Forest Ecology Exhibition Hall • B3 Tamsui Old Street • Tamsui's 2nd Fishing Port, (Fisherman's Wharf) . Hobe Fort

