

Taipei city, the capital of Taiwan, is situated in a basin in northern Taiwan that was inhabited by aboriginal peoples until settlers from China moved into the area about 300 years ago. Flaunting fine geographical surroundings of mountains and water, a comfortable climate, diligent ancestors who endured lives of hardship and toiled in pioneer work, and a wealth of cultural and historical heritage, Taipei has moved to become a diverse and multi-cultural metropolis. Here, the modern face of Taipei shines through, with its glass and steel skyscrapers, wide boulevards, and the world's tallest building, Taipei 101.

Taipei also boasts dozens of world-class performance venues, where you can enjoy world-class theater and concert events. The city also offers a wide range of other diversions- shopping malls, nightclubs, live-music bars, quality hotels, and exotic restaurants.

Taipei is a wonderful city to visit. The people here are very hospitable especially to foreigners. There are many opportunities to experience Chinese culture. Taipei is a city with a great blend of the traditional and modern.

Taipei 101: Take the world's fastest passenger lift to the viewing platforms of Taipei 101, soaring 508 metres above the ground. Enjoy the 360? panorama, see the giant pendulum counteracting earthquakes, browse the coral exhibition and designer boutiques.

Marty's Shrine: Watch the changing of the guard at the Martyrs' Shrine, a colorful complex resembling a Ming palace with bell towers and pavilions, red colonnades and lofty carvings.

Chiang-Kai-shek Memorial Hall: See the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall with its lovely landscaped grounds popular with city folks and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial, the 'Father of the Nation', especially at dawn or dusk when locals practice taichi in the grounds.

Longshan Temple: Visit Longshan Temple, where Taiwanese of all faiths worship the Goddess of Mercy. There are offerings and huge clouds of incense, precious carvings, calligraphy and a miraculous statue. It's a living traditional temple and a must-see in Taipei.

National Palace Museum: Browse the National Palace Museum in the northern suburbs, with its 6000 works of art spanning over 5000 years of Chinese talent. Some 700 000 items are stored in the vaults and displayed in rotation. See the porcelain, ceramics, bronze, paintings and carved miniatures.

Maokong: Head out of town to the Maokong tea plantations, with demonstrations on production and brewing and lots of lovely tea houses where one can sample the most famous brew, a variety of oolong known as the Iron Goddess.

Beitou: Do as the locals do, especially in winter, and relax in the hot springs of Beitou, a lush hill resort north of Shilin, accessed by MRT, mass rapid transit. Local hotels offer hot soaks and massage combined and one can view the sulphur pits at Hell Valley.

Shilin Night Market: Explore the Shilin night market, packed with Taiwan T-shirts and shoes, jewellery, gadgets and food stalls serving fresh fruit juice, noodle soup, oyster omelette and all kinds of delicacies. There are massage parlours and fortune tellers and a temple for luck.

Public Transportation

1. Taipei Mass Rapid Transit System (MRT)

The system operates according to a spoke-hub distribution paradigm, with most rail lines running radically outward from central Taipei.

Operation Hour: Daily from 6 AM to midnight; extended services during special events.

Frequency: 1.5 to 15 minutes intervals depending on the line and time of day.

Fare:

- "Single-journey Ticket for Cyclists" costs TWD 80 valid for one person with a single bicycle.
- "One-day Pass" costs TWD 150 with unlimited travel within one day; can be purchased from a service booth Learn more about Metro Taipei at

2. Bus

Taipei City Bus operates daily from 6 AM to midnight with extended services during weekend and special events. Learn more about Taipei Bus routes and schedules at

http://www.taipeibus.taipei.gov.tw/TPBUS.aspx?lang=eng

Taipei City Map

http://www.taipeitravel.net/d_upload_ttn/cms/webEdit/A0/B0/C0/D0/E0/F0/c15d4962-dc07-4972-8342-1767fb2f 5a2c.jpg C Taipei City Map

