

2012 / 02 / 06

Excursion: Lantern Festival in Pingxi

To celebrate Taiwan Lantern Festival in Taiwan, we schedule to go to Pingxi joining the annual sky lanterns activity to experience the local Taiwanese lifestyle. Every year, there must be tons of people gathering together to release lanterns with their dreams written. The flying lanterns symbolizes that dreams will come true.

Pingxi's sky lanterns release were supposedly a way for people to notify each other in case of theft in ancient time. Nowadays, those lanterns have become the essence of the famous festival in Taiwan. Between Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival, Pingxi receives a countless number of tourists who write down their wishes on the sky lanterns. The main event of the festival, the launching of a thousand lanterns, brings people's wishes into the heavens and forms a touching and unforgettable scene and memories.



Photo source: <http://taipeitravel.net> (Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government).

2012 / 02 / 07



GuoGuang Peking Opera Night

GuoGuang Opera Company, existed for 250 years, has always devoted itself to the international exchange in terms of traditional Chinese culture. They conduct peking operas to the worldwide audience to show the representative essences of our traditionse. The GuoGuang Opera company preserves traditional classics with contents modernized. The opera is a mixture of high-pitched singing, acting and kungfu with many conventions such as face-painting, elaborate costumes. Besides, GuoGuang endeavors to do experiments with innovative techniques and stages new operas from time to time. Over the year, these new creations have won many awards, including “The Annals of Great Generals” and “Journey through Hell”.

GuoGuang aims to reach diverse audience in terms of ages and regions. In addition to performing at National Theater, it also carries out educational tours to remote counties. By doing so, it generates enthusiasm among people to appreciate and understand the beauty of arts. Also,GuoGuang conducts Chinese opera workshop for the public as well as performing arts training program to provide more accesses for people to the chinese arts.

To spread appreciation of traditional Chinese opera among foreign countries, GuoGunag has undertaken many tours to the United States, Canada, France, Russia, Singapore and other countries to promote the essence of chinese arts and hence put Taiwan on the world stage.



Photo source: <http://www.kk.gov.tw/> (GuoGuang opera Company)

2012/02/08

Taipei City Excursion

The National Palace Museum

The National Palace Museum houses the world's largest collection of priceless Chinese artifacts, objects which span China's 5000 yearlong history, which has made themselves the greatest and invaluable treasure house regarding Chinese art on earth. Many of the artifacts were once a part of the Chinese Imperial Collection, which was begun over 1000 years ago in the early Sung Dynasty. The items amounts to nearly 700,000 pieces ranging from delicately carved jade ornaments pottery, porcelain, as well as bronze, sculpture, embroidery, calligraphy and paintings, each piece is a true curio. There is also the lovely Zhishan Farden just right ahead. It was planned and construct based on one well-known painting in Chinese history in order to show the best part of elegant beauty.



Photo source: <http://taipeitravel.net> (Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government).

Taipei Confucius Temple

The Taipei Confucius Temple (Chinese: 臺北孔子廟; pinyin: Táiběi Kǒngzǐ Miào; Pêh-ōe-jī: Tâi-pak-khóng-chú-biō) is modeled after the original Confucius Temple in Qufu, Shandong Province of China. It is located on Dalong Street, Datong District, Taipei City,



Taiwan. Among the Confucius temples in Taiwan, Taipei's is the only one adorned with southern Fujian-style ceramic adornments. At the main hall of the temple one can see a black plaque with gold lettering which was inscribed by Chiang Kai-shek that reads "Educate without Discrimination." Every year on September 28, a ceremony with traditional music and stylized dancing is held at the temple in honor of Confucius.

Photo source: <http://english.ct.taipei.gov.tw/> (Taipei Confucius Temple Governing Board)

Dalongdong Baoan Temple

Dalongdong Baoan Temple (Chinese: 大龍峒保安宮; Pêh-ōe-jī: Tōa-lông-pōng pó-an kiong) also known as the Taipei Baoan Temple (Chinese: 臺北保安宮) is a Taiwanese folk religion temple built in the Datong district of Taipei, Taiwan. The present temple was originally built by clan members in the Tong'an District (同安) who immigrated to Taipei in the early 19th century and gave the temple the name Bao'an (保安) in order to "protect those of tong'an" (保佑同安). The Taipei Confucius Temple is located adjacent to the Baoan Temple.

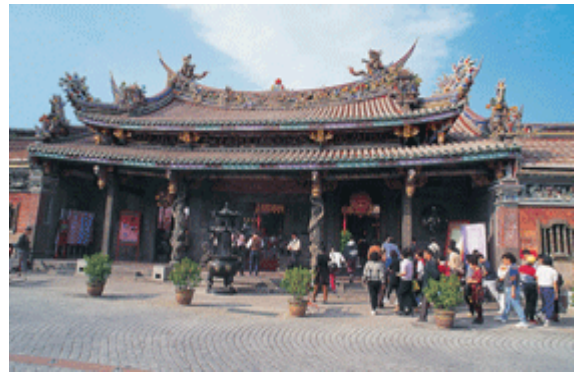


Photo source: <http://www.baoan.org.tw/ENGLISH/> (Dalongdong Baoan Temple)

Taipei 101

The Taipei 101 building was the tallest building in the world when it was constructed in 2004. It stands at an impressive 508m, 101 floors, and its designed is meant to mimic the shape and lines of the bamboo plant. Located at the center of most thriving area, Taipei 101 has numerous corporate offices, fine restaurants and boutiques giving the city more of an international and multi-dimensional profile. Thus, the world can recognize Taiwan with this iconic tower rather easily. Furthermore, Taipei 101 has an incredible fast elevator, which takes passengers from the fifth floor to the observation platform within 37 seconds. In addition to the



annual New Year firework, the Taipei 101 changes its light show all the time. For example, it will show a Christmas tree when the Christmas is coming. And interestingly, the light of the building are different in every single day. They coincide with the days of the week. Taipei 101, modern and significant, is definitely the landmark skyscraper impressing people from all over the world.

Photo source: <http://taipeitravel.net> (Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government).

Banquet at Taipei 101 (Shin Yeh)

Authentic Taiwanese Cuisine



Photo source: <http://www.shinyeh.com.tw/store.php?Location=E> (Shin Yeh)