

## ***OPTIONAL TOURS IN TAIPEI***

### **Yamay Theme Park**

If you have some kids along with you or you're looking for an Enchanted Kingdom experience in Taiwan, then you may consider to visit Yamay Theme Park at Taichung County. Travel time from Taipei to Taichung takes around 45 minutes by the high speed train and around 3 hours by bus. Yamay theme park is just one of the several theme parks in Taiwan. This theme park is divided into two parts. One is the amusement park while the other one is a big swimming pool resort. They have separate entrance fees. If you have a longer time, then you could try both parks and sleep over at their hotel. This time, we only had one day so we chose to go to the amusement park and enjoy the rides.

### **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall**

It's Located at the heart of Taipei City, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall (National Taiwan Democracy Memorial Hall) was built to commemorate the former Taiwan President Chiang Kai-Shek. Established in 1980, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall has a total area of two hundred and fifty thousand square meters. Occupying a large area, the memorial hall is covered with the colors of Taiwanese flag: blue, white, and red. The colors of the flag symbolize independence, equality, and universal love. Since 2007, it has been noted as a national historical site of Taiwan. Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall is now an important landmark of Taipei that attracts large populations of visitors every year. At the heritage display room, visitors may see historical records, valuable preserved photographs, and old commodities used by the former president. Through these displays, visitors will have an understanding of the precious historical properties of Taiwan. Also, Chiang Kai-Shek's vehicles are showed in the central corridor. Apart from the main memorial hall, the National Theater and National Concert Hall are at the corner of the occupant. Since its establishment in 1987, the hall and theater have held numerous exclusive local and international performances. With various fine performances and exhibitions, these halls are significant to art and culture of Taiwan. After abolishment of the martial laws, this large area is sometimes crowded for political rallies, social events, commercial activities, exhibitions, and concerts.

### **Taipei International Convention Center (TICC)**

Its is a world-class building for holding important conferences located on Xinyi Road. It shares a site with the International Trade Tower, the Taipei World Trade Center (TWTC), and the Grand Hyatt Taipei. Being part of the business centers, TICC has held many important international meetings and conferences such as the World Congress, etc. The center not only is a landmark of Taipei, but also has significant contributions to the world. TICC rooms are well-equipped with the latest technology.

### **Jiufen(Chiufen) Old Street:**

Chiufen used to be the center of gold mining in Taiwan, Located in Rueifang District of New Taipei City (Taipei County). With a unique location and landscape, its the famous scenic spot, Chiufen is surrounded by mountains and facing the sea, offering amazing views of Mist Sea that creates a romantic ambience. When gold mining industry ended, Chiufen was once solitude until the rise of tourism in Chiufen, it is now one of the must-see attractions for your Taipei travel. Another highlight of Chiufen is the Gold Ecological Museum. The museum offers histories of gold mining industry in the area. Various facilities include Museum of Gold, Environmental building, Crown Prince Chalet, Four-joined of Japanese Styled Residence, Gold-refining building and Benshan Fifth Tunnel. Visitors may take a walk through Benshan Fifth Tunnel to experience the working environment of gold miners in old days, or visit the Crown Prince Chalet for a beautiful Japanese styled chalet and garden. Enriched with beautiful nature views, architectures, and tasty local dishes, Chiufen is an excellent, memorable attraction for your Taipei travel.

## *OPTIONAL TOURS IN KAOHSIUNG*

### **E-DA World - E-DA Theme Park**

Kaohsiung E-DA World, opened in 2010, is a leisure destination that encompasses upscale hotels of Crowne Plaza Kaohsiung E-DA World Hotel and E-DA Skylark Hotel, the E-DA Outlet Mall, E-DA City (real estate development) and I-Shou University. E-DA Theme Park is Taiwan's first Aegean theme park, designed based on an integration of Greek-style environment consisting of major attractions like The ancient Greek temple, The blue and white city of Santorini with an imagination of being at the Aegean Sea and The Trojan castle. It has a pristine atmosphere with a touch of breathtaking elements. It has the largest entertainment theatre and the biggest indoor recreation center in Taiwan. Enjoy the country's first roller coaster ride in a complete pitch-black surrounding, watch the charming magical water show, see the soaring erupting volcano show and the spectacular view from the biggest ferris wheel in Taiwan. A place where dreams come alive. A place of laughter and hope. An exciting adventure that will definitely stimulate your senses.

### **Love River Cruise:**

Love River lies across Kaohsiung for times of sunrises and sunsets. Love River, known as Dagou River in Ching Dynasty, was renamed by Japanese as Takao River. The river was also called Kaohsiung Canal. After restoration of Taiwan, the riverbanks were beautified with greenery works and developed to be park areas, decorated with pillars chained with iron rope. The area becomes a romantic place for lovers to date with each other, therefore, the river was reputed as Love River. On the banks, a number of parks and green lands were developed and constructed with a very long bicycle way. One may wander relaxedly on the pathways of the banks, admiring the pleasant landscape and enjoying the gentle touch of breeze. At night, lights sparkle on Love River. Every day from 4:00-11:00, visitors can take the boats on the east and west coast to look at the romantic and charming sights of Love River. Then, you might like to enjoy drinking coffee at cafes of different moods, such as cafe literary and art squares over River Mambo and olden Love River. It is nice to enjoy the aromatic coffee and listen to the music with different moods and tempos, allowing the leisure of the harbor city to relax your body and soul.

### **Former British Consulate:**

The consulate was built in 1865 with more than a hundred years of history. It is now the most antique western building preserved in Taiwan, which is listed as the second-class historic spot. It was the western building designed by a British engineer and built by Chinese craftsmen, and it is the most meaningful ancient building of Chinese modern history with graceful and elegant proportion. Semicircle arches are rhythmically arranged in order with considerably rhyming. At the corner, the circle arch is smaller and the wall pillar is bigger, which has reinforced function in dynamics. It is the Baroque typed building of the Renaissance era. It emphasizes on the stylish regular pattern and its hollow pattern railings were built with excellent bricks. Harmonious sense of beauty is shown at every turn. Among the existing western style buildings in Taiwan, it provides an excellent example of technique and style and that possesses the value of historical architecture study and conservation value. The building brick and mortar used all continue using the traditional method of Fukien and Taiwan. Some parts are even filled with clay and soil, while wooden truss is built with complete western style. It is the building that has double function, administrative and residential function, and its style also lies in between them. It is the portrayal illustration of modern Chinese and Western cultural communication, and also the first formal consulate built by foreigners in Taiwan. The occurrence of consulate opened up the development of western architecture for Taiwan in the future.

## ***OPTIONAL TOURS IN TAICHUNG***

### **Warehouse No. 20**

It is originally used for transportation and shipment, the Taiwan Railway Administration renovated a number of its warehouses (from No. 20 to No. 26) and collectively renamed them "Warehouse No. 20: The Railway Art Network, Taichung Station" in 1998, transforming them into a place for culture and art exchange and creating a new landmark for art in Taichung. Warehouse No. 20 consists of exhibition area, theatres, cafes, and free space for artists to create.

### **Formosa Aboriginal Culture Village tour by cable car from Sun Moon Lake Tour:**

Sun Moon Lake is the most famous lake attraction in Taiwan. With over 100 square kilometers, the lake got its name because the northern part of it has the shape of the sun and the southern part of it has the shape of crescent moon (those two parts are separated by Guang-hua Island). Then proceed from Sun Moon Lake to Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village through cable car.

Formosa Aboriginal Culture Village It was established in 1986; total area is 62 hectares. The culture village features aboriginal cultures, combining tourism, culture and educational functions. It is located in Yuchi, Nantou County, near Sun Moon Lake. The culture village has made great efforts in updating the amusement facilities and services and has shown the vigorous spirits of the aboriginal tribes. It has five theme parks: the European Gardens, the Aladdin Plaza, the Aboriginal Villages, Amusement Isle and Ti Ka Er Rainforest. Amusement facilities in these five theme parks include joy ride, cultural square, artistic fountain, museums, 3-D theater, aboriginal dance show, etc. The Culture Village is entertaining and educational, perfect for families on holidays.

### **Art Museum:**

Taichung has two National museums which are established and administered by the Taichung City Government, The National Museum of Natural Science and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. Both of these world class institutions are centers of cultural and education activities, with modern, comprehensive facilities, outstanding displays and attractive recreational park grounds. They are definitely one of the "must visit" spots for your Taichung travel. The museum often holds various international exhibitions from all over the world. The main structure is surrounded by a large, recreational greenery area which sits opposite to Taichung Municipal Cultural Center that attracts many local Taichung residents and foreign visitors.

### **Laugh Tea House:**

Taichung is the place of origin of bubble tea as well as pearl milk tea reportedly. Traditional Taiwanese or exotic tea houses abound in Taichung, but there only are a few of Chinese garden style like Laugh Tea House, which is one of the most popular ones in central Taiwan. Structured with a central pool, the building is made of wood and brick. There are rooms floored with tatami ( a type of mat used as the flooring material in Japanese style rooms) and private rooms. Unlike common beverage store, Laugh Tea House makes fresh tea with traditional tea leaves. You can have a pot of tea and order Cantonese dim sum (snacks) and Chinese dishes to enjoy with your friends for a pleasant afternoon tea. In addition, Chinese music band performs in the pavilion at the central pool during specific periods. On holidays, the tea house sometimes becomes a place for pre- wedding photo shoot.

**Art Museum Eco Park Way:**

Taichung Park is the oldest park in Taichung city. Built in the Japanese-ruling era and with a space of 10 acres, the park base at that time was the garden, named Ruixuan and actually donated by the Lin family in Wufeng, together with the old Beimen Building. Taichung Park features many pretty landscapes, such an artificial lake, pavilion, arch bridge, etc. There are also lots of recreational equipments, like outdoor stadium, playground, and tennis court. Some extraordinary European-style building and Houxing Pavilion were constructed in 1908 in celebration of the launch of the Taiwan Railway stretching from north to south in Taiwan. Houxing Pavilion has also been the symbol of Taichung City since the Japanese-ruling era and it's hence officially declared as a city-designated historical site in 1999.

**Bubble Tea Experience:**

Bubble Tea, also called pearl tea Boba, is a drink which comes from Taichung, Taiwan. It is made by mixing black tea with non-dairy creamer or milk and adding round “pearl” tapioca. There are many flavors other than the original tea. Green tea can be used instead of black tea. Extra items such as honey, coffee or cocoa can be added. Pudding or coconut cubes can be used instead of pearl tapioca.

**Sun Moon Lake tour:**

At Sun Moon Lake, you will encounter the beautiful lake where newlyweds in the early days hoped to spend their honeymoon. Get to Shuishe Pier in the early morning; you'll see mist lingering on the lake, surface of which is calm and flat just like a mirror. Worship deities in Wenwu Temple and walk down year of steps to pray for blessing. Later, take a short hike and mount on Cien Pagoda to overlook the whole lake from a distance. Finally, take a boat to Xuanguang Temple to sample Grandma's Tea egg.

