



TAIWANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

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2021 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival Exhibition – Taiwan Tourism Pavilion

Ile Formosa, such an amazing island full of pleasant surprises at every corner

The East meeting the West, Tradition mixing with Modern Arts That create a miniature Global Village

It's time for Taiwan, the Heart of Asia!

When looking back, we will find Taiwan has had different names in different eras but all in all, they refer to “Beautiful Island”! In the 16th century, when Portuguese sailors first saw Taiwan from a distance, they admired and could not help but call out “*Ilha Formosa*”, the “Beautiful Island” in their language. Then in the 17th century, when the Dutch took over Taiwan from the Portuguese, it became “Dutch Formosa (Nederlands-Formosa)”; later came the Japanese. All throughout the history, Taiwan naturally forms the stunning sparks with all the different cultures which have ever landed on this beautiful island!

Nowadays, when we talk about Taiwan, plenty of historical landmarks mark the island, serving as a reminder of the little island's roots. Visit the Lungshan temple guarded by its colourful dragons, established in 1738, making it one of the oldest temples in Taiwan; or, visit Anping Fort, a historical remnant of a central trade hub between the Dutch and the Japanese populations of Tainan. The Chihkan Tower is another historical walking site that allows for glimpses into the nation's past when it was built in 1653 to serve as a Dutch outpost. Many historic sites in Taiwan are also religious sites, which allows visitors to learn more about the culture and religion intertwining with history. Temples are among some of the most grandiose religious landmarks, such as the Wenwu Temple in Nantou, where you can climb an impressive flight of 366 stairs to see dedications to various gods and religious figures.

Taiwan is also rich in culture and festivities. If you happen to be in New Taipei City's Pingxi Township during the Lantern festival, you may experience the delight of releasing glowing lanterns into the sky, or enjoying some delicious dumplings. Or, if you happen to visit in the fall, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, you will find mooncakes of all different flavours and varieties being sold; if you happen to visit during Chinese New Year, you might even see fireworks displays and experience the excitement of passing onto a new year. Even normal days feel rich and festive once you step out in the evening for a stroll around the night market. At night markets, you can try all sorts of mouth-watering street foods, such as sticky rice sausages or sweet taro balls over shaved ice! Not only is the food unforgettable, but there is also something for everyone in the vendor stalls to take home.



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With all of the hustle and bustle in big cities like Taipei, it can be easy to forget how rich the tropical island is in biodiversity due to its range in topography and diverse climatic zones. Taiwan is home to at least 56,700 species of fauna and flora, and boasts incredible views of towering mountains, expansive fields and lush forests. Surrounded by the sea, the island also is home to incredible marine ecosystems and stunning coral reefs. Visit one of the eight national parks that this tropical island has to offer; from the marble-cut gorge in Taroko Park to the soaring mountain peaks of Yushan National Park, these national treasures have something in store for everyone!

Now, please follow us so you can truly enjoy Taiwan!

- **Time to Eat:** With its agricultural abundance and diverse culinary ingredients, Taiwan boasts an amazing food culture spanning fine cuisine to daily fare.
- **Time for Two Wheels:** Unique natural terrain and round-the-island cycling routes set the stage for Taiwan's new LOHAS tourism charm.
- **Time to Shop:** Taiwan's fashionable and cultural shopping environment has something for every visitor's consumer desires.
- **Time for Nature:** Discover the wonders of nature at Taiwan's 13 national scenic areas.
- **Time for Love:** From beautiful beaches to nostalgic hillside towns, Taiwan offers plenty of romantic escapes for love to bloom.
- **Time to Marvel:** Immerse yourself in the human touch of local culture and daily life in Taiwan.
- **Time to Tour:** With the most convenient transportation networks, you can easily tour around Taiwan by high speed or local trains, buses, ferries or even bicycles!

Whether it is your first time visiting or your 10th time visiting, Taiwan always has something new to discover for everyone, no matter who you are. Whether you're interested in looking through windows back in time; or interested in partaking in a festive night or two of Taiwanese culture; or interested in exploring the diversity of all the natural wonders this island has to offer, everyone will bring home a piece of Taiwan with them. ***It's Time for Taiwan!***

For more information or inquiries, please visit the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival website <https://tccfestival.ca/> or follow the TCCS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TCCSVan>

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