

1. Qigu Salt Mountain

Located in Qigu District, Tainan, Qigu Salt Mountain is one of the most popular attractions in Tainan. Qigu Salt Mountain is set close to Qigu Lagoon, the largest inland lake in Taiwan, which is rich in ecological resources and the habitat for winter migratory birds-black-faced spoonbills. The area's long history of generating salt and its great contribution of nation's salt production make it a renowned place for rich mineral substance.

There are 2 salt mountains in Qigu Salt Mountain area, the major mound and north mound. The major mound is comprised of 60,000 tons of salt left over from the Taiwan Salt Corporation's Qigu Salt Fields, which is about 20 meters-tall. Visitors are offered with great views of other salt fields and surroundings when viewing from the top of the mound.

Located right next to Qigu Salt Mountain, the Taiwan Salt Museum is where visitors will be given some ideas of the history of Taiwan salt industry, the science of salt and the use of salt world-wide. Black-Faced Spoonbill Conservation Area, Ocean View Pavilion, and Qigu Lagoon are other attractions nearby that are worth-seeing for one's Tainan trip.



1. Luermen Matsu Temple (Lùěrmén Tiānhòu Gōng 鹿耳門天后宮)

The Matsu Temple at Luermen supposedly marks the spot where Zheng Chenggong (Koxinga) made his landing to attack the Dutch settlements at Fort Zeelandia and Fort Provintia. According to legend, the Goddess Matsu aided Zheng in his landing at Luermen. The Dutch had sunk obstacles along the shore of Luermen to prevent any enemies from landing, but when Zheng arrived the waters magically rose several feet and he avoided any damage to his ships. Despite suggestions that the time of year of his arrival boasts very high tides, this legend persists and people continue to pay homage to Matsu on the spot of this historic landing.



Luermen (Lùěrmén 鹿耳門, literally “deer ear gate”), was a principal gateway to Taiwan for much of its early settlement. By the end of the Dutch period, silting had choked up the harbors at Anping and Chikan leading to Luermen’s rise as the gateway port.

Matsu is known as the Goddess of the Sea and as the Heavenly Empress. Matsu is one of the principal deities worshipped in Taiwan and Fujian, China. This goddess originated in Fujian province in the form of a human girl named Lin Moniang who lived there in the Northern Song Dynasty. The girl was adept at swimming and saved many fishermen and sailors from drowning. As a goddess, she guides sailors and helped all those who immigrated from Fujian to Taiwan. For obvious reasons, Matsu temples are everywhere in Taiwan. Many people involve themselves in pilgrimages to

various important Matsu temples, even heading in a journey from northern Taiwan to Luermen and back to Fujian to retrace the steps of their ancestors journey.

2. Dinner at Tainan Night Market



Tainan Night Markets (Táinán Yèshì 台南夜市)

Anyone will tell you that the essential Taiwanese cultural experience is a visit to any of the island's numerous night markets. Pubs and night clubs are mere subcultures compared to the mass-assembly of nightlife in Taiwan's night markets, and many Taiwanese never tire of braving the crowds. Tainan is no exception when it comes to night market culture. In fact, much of the street market food you find all around the island originated at Tainan's night markets. While you no longer have to travel to Tainan to eat danzai noodles or coffin bread, many visitors still make Tainan's night markets a priority in their visit.

Night markets are essential to Chinese culture and have been around for more than a thousand years. They have a long and storied tradition, both on the mainland and on this side of the Taiwan Strait. In fact, much of the political and social history can be found in the bends and curves of night market culture. Under the Japanese, night markets were highly regulated. During the 1950's, they boomed in Taipei due to the increase of migrant workers from the south. During the 70's, merchandise like handicrafts and herbal remedies were replaced by off-sales of the Made in Taiwan boom. These days, those same light industry products are sold, but they usually come from China. Traditions involving night markets have changed with the seasons, but they have always been meeting grounds in which people have gathered to socialize, shop, and eat.

Information courtesy: <https://tainancity.wordpress.com/>