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eight acres of land. The ecological environment inside the park consists of water, mud and sand banks, marshes, freshwater pools and green spaces. This is a protection zone for migratory birds with the main focus on migrating geese and ducks, and bird watching with binoculars along the riverbank evokes a sense of joy and discovery.

Shopping in Dadaocheng and Capturing the New Year Spirit

Riding further along the Tamsui Bikeway you will soon reach Dadaocheng. Park your bike here, so that you can shop around Dihua Street in Dadaocheng to soak up the Lunar New Year atmosphere. New Year goodies are sold as early as January 25th, and everything under the sun is for sale, including unexpected knick-knacks from far-flung corners of the world. Also featured are abalone, flat fish, shrimps, jerky, walnut cakes, dried dates, honey preserved fruits and tea from all around the world. Delicacies are piled in a huge array and can be sampled freely. The beckoning sounds of vendors' chants permeate the air non-stop, and have made Dadaocheng the best place in Taiwan for foreigners to experience Lunar New Year preparations. As an added convenience, many vendors offer a free delivery service so that customers don't have to carry heavy bags while shopping.



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After finishing New Year shopping, lunch can be found just around the corner. Along Dihua Street are abundant street food choices and traditional eateries. The street vendors offer homegrown, inexpensive and good quality foods favored by the general public, including simple but delicious Minle sailfish rice noodle soup, fried tender-crispy chicken rolls from Yongle Chicken Rolls King (永樂雞捲大王) and Yongle *mitaimu* (米苔目; a kind of rice noodle) braised in a rich, concentrated broth; these are all true Taiwan traditions.

Strolling Through Guandu's Natural Beauty

After getting back in the saddle, continue riding along the Tamsui Bikeway to connect to the Keelung Bikeway. The scenery along the river bank where the two rivers meet is magnificent and the spot has become the most popular area for bike riders. Guandu Nature Park (關渡自然公園), the largest wetland in Taipei, is the mid-point stop on the migration route for birds from the Pacific region. During the autumn and winter seasons, snip plovers, geese and ducks can be observed freely through long-range telescopes. Visitors can also learn about their habits, movements and other interesting ecological facts from park volunteers. Additionally, the views open up dramatically as the river connecting Guandu and Tamsui (and edged with extended mangrove wetlands) approaches the ocean, forming an impressive sight. This dramatic view makes this section of the bike path truly a bird watching paradise.

At nightfall, there is no better place to enjoy a good dinner than at the Tapas House (92水鳥餐廳) next to Guandu Nature Park. The restaurant features mainly



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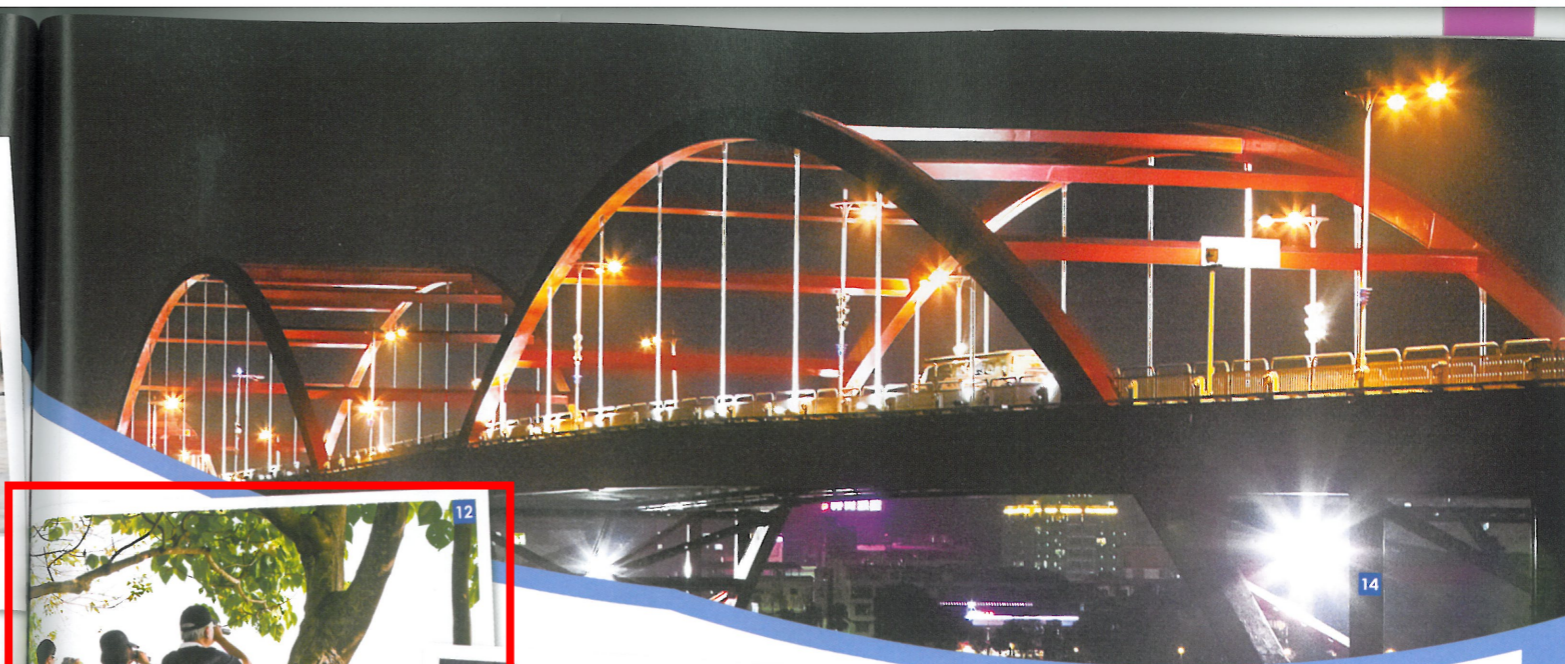


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Spanish tapas-style food. The manager explained that Spaniards habitually eat their dinner very late, around 10 pm, and therefore usually eat a few light dishes earlier in the evening. The food served at the restaurant consists of small appetizer-sized dishes - light, not confined to either salty or sweet flavors and usually a perfect match with wine or liquor. Spain's national dish, paella, the most popular menu choice, is cooked beautifully to a unique golden color, oozing with the rich aroma of saffron. Combined with other dishes like the orion cheese-baked pancake and the seafood tower, a perfectly balanced sangria (Spanish fruit wine) brings out the Spanish character in the food.

Don't hurry home right after dinner; instead, ride through the evening breeze and go to Guandu Bridge to enjoy the night skyline - What a perfect ending to a beautiful winter outing!

- 8-9. During the New Year shopping season vendors give out food samples; traditional decorations are also displayed.
- 10. Aromatic *mitaimu* at Yongle Market.
- 11. The grand, expansive scenery where the Tamsui and Keelung rivers meet attracts many cyclists.
- 12. Great numbers of migratory birds visit Guandu Nature Park in fall and winter; high-powered telescopes bring them up close.
- 13. Tapas House serves Spanish cuisine.
- 14. The night-time light sculpture at Guandu Bridge is splendid.



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Information

Grandma's Sticky Rice 阿婆油飯
 Add: 70, Sanshui St. (三水街70號)
 Tel: 0910-032-372

Jinhe Sushi 金禾壽司
 Add: 93, Sanshui St. (三水街93號)
 Tel: (02) 2320-4727

Su Home Sticky Rice Cake 萬華蘇記肉圓油粿
 Add: 109, Sanshui St. (三水街109號)
 Tel: (02) 2308-3724

We Are the World Old-Time Flavors 天下一家好味老店
 Add: 302, Kangding Rd. (康定路302號)
 Tel: (02) 2308-3694

Minle Sailfish Rice Noodle 民樂旗魚米粉
 Add: 3, Minle St. (民樂街3號)
 Tel: 0933-870-901

Yongle Chicken Rolls King 永樂雞捲大王
 Add: 6, Ln. 50, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd. (延平北路2段50巷6號)
 Tel: (02) 2556-0031

Yongle Mitaimu 永樂米苔目
 Add: 7, Yongchang St. (永昌街7號)
 Tel: (02) 2559-9603

Guandu Nature Park 關渡自然公園
 Add: 55, Guandu Rd. (關渡路55號)
 Tel: (02) 2858-7417
 Website: your.gd-park.org.tw

Tapas House 92水鳥餐廳
 Add: 92, Zhixing Rd. (知行路92號)
 Tel: (02) 2858-8668

An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching (P32~P35) Map



An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching (P32~P35) Tour Information



An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching

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Add: 93, Sanshui St.
(三水街93號)
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Tel: (02)2858-8668



Transportation Information

Morning market at Sanshui Street

Take the MRT with your bike → Longshan Temple Station Exit 1 → Bike along Guangzhou St., turn right at Kangding Rd. and arrive at the Xinfu Market (park your bike) → walk straight into the market for 3 minutes to get to Grandma's Sticky Rice and Jinhe Sushi → exit the market and continue to walk 200 meters forward to the Su Home Sticky Rice Cake, or go right for 200 meters to the We Are the World Old-Time Flavors.

Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park

Bike along Kangding Rd. for 3 minutes → Turn right onto Heping W. Rd. and go straight for 10 minutes → Turn left onto Huanhe S. Rd. and keep biking forward for about 10 minutes → Turn right onto Changshun St. → The Huajiang Evacuation Gate → Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park → The Tamsui bike path → Zhongxing Bridge

Dadaocheng Wharf

Bike along the Tamsui bike path → Dadaocheng Wharf (Park your bike) → Exit from Gate 5, take Minsheng W. Rd. and go straight for 5 minutes → Turn right onto Dihua St. (New Year Shopping) → Turn left onto Yongchang St. (Yongle mitaimu), Minle St. (sailfish rice noodle soup), and Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd. (Yongle Chicken Rolls King) → Back to Dadaocheng Wharf

Keelung Bikeway

Bike along the Tamsui bikeway for about 30 – 40 minutes → Keelung bikeway → Guandu Rd. → Guandu Nature Park

Guandu Nature Park

Exit Guandu Nature Park → Turn left onto Zhixing Rd. and go straight for 1 minute to the Tapas House → Go along Zhixing Rd. and connect to the Tamsui Bikeway → Guandu Bridge

