

English



Beitou Hot Spring Museum

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Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00

Closed on Mondays

Url: <http://hotspringmuseum.taipei/>



f Beitou Hot Spring Museum

Getting Here

MRT: Take the Tamsui-Xinyi (red) MRT Line to Beitou Station, then transfer to the Xinbeitou Branch Line and get off at Xinbeitou Station.

Bus: Take bus number 216, 216 (Shuttle), 218, 218 (Shuttle), 266, or S22 to Beitou Park Stop.

Notice

This building is designated as a Municipal Monument. To help us preserve this valuable cultural asset as well as for the safety and quality of your visit, please abide by the following rules:

1. Maximum capacity is 200 persons. Please change your shoes into indoor slippers provided at the entrance. Please ask our staff if you need any assistance.
2. Photography is allowed for personal usage. No commercial or event/wedding photography is permitted in the museum. To avoid blocking the visiting path, use of tripods is not allowed.
3. Due to the narrow corridors of the museum, the usage of baby strollers or wheelchairs is not recommended.



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印象
再相浴

meet up
with
Beitou
again

 北投溫泉博物館
Beitou Hot Spring Museum





Steamy Hot Spring Resort

In 1896, hot spring hotels such as Songtaoyuan and Tiangouan opened for business and the hot spring industry began a gradual rise. These hotels and clubs introduced traditional hotel systems along with Japanese geishas. The area of Shinhokuto (now Xinbeitou), like many hot spring sites in Japan, was a famous, upscale recreational area. After the end of World War II, the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan from China and did not impose a ban on the operational model of Xinbeitou hot spring business, which had developed into an entertainment during the period of Japanese rule. Instead, it issued rules and regulations for management. Since then, Beitou has not only been a place for drinking and pleasure, but was also a must-see attraction for Japanese tourists in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as a holiday spot for U.S. military soldiers during the Vietnam War. By the time prostitution was abolished in 1979, Beitou was regarded as a “pleasure land” in Taiwan.

Historical Context

The Beitou Hot Spring Museum, formerly known as the Hokuto Public Bathhouse (Beitou Public Bathhouse), underwent changes through different eras, from the public baths during the Japanese rule to the Zhongshan House and KMT Service Center after the war. However, the building was eventually closed and abandoned due to the intermittent change of the competent authority. The



Beitou Hot Spring Museum is like a huge treasure box of time, holding the people's collective memories and spirit of different eras, standing quietly beside the Beitou Stream, accompanying and witnessing the historical development of Beitou.

You’ ll see old photographs of the Beitou Hot Spring Museum and its surroundings exhibited on the left and right sides of the area, guiding visitors to pick up the historical fragments scattered over time.

Discovery

In 1994, a group of teachers and students from Beitou Elementary School discovered that the Beitou Public Bathhouse (Hokuto Public Bathhouse) had been abandoned for nearly seven years in the process of collecting materials during homeland teaching. With the efforts of society, it was finally classified as a Class III Historic Monument in 1997 (now a city monument due to the amendment of the legal system). After renovation, it was reopened in 1998 under the name of the Beitou Hot Spring Museum. The Beitou Hot Spring Museum no longer provides bath services, but instead introduces the history of Beitou and hot springs to the public in order to revitalize and renew the public spirit of the facility. This section introduces the history of the transformation from a public bathhouse to a hot spring museum and its architectural beauty, and presents the Beitou Ecomuseum with interactive maps.



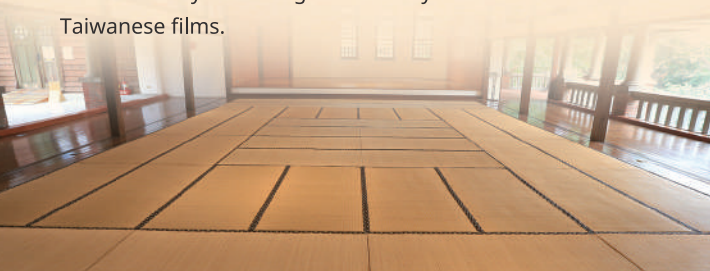


Treasure in the Beitou Stream

"Taki" is a Japanese term for a waterfall descending along a multilevel riverbed. There are five taki in the Beitou Stream. Before the formal development of Beitou's hot spring industry, most people took a dip directly in the open-air hot springs there, which can be said was the beginning of Beitou's bath culture. The Beitou Stream is home to the rare mineral hokutolite. Hokutolite is created as the green sulfur hot springs and the waterfalls or "taki" descend into the thermal valley — the main source of the Beitou Stream. Hokutolite is not only the only mineral named after a location in Taiwan but is also considered a Beitou Stream treasure because it takes a long time to form and is endowed with special properties.

The Hollywood of Taiwan

In the early days, Beitou was dotted with hot spring hotels. Combining beautiful scenery and its unique atmosphere, Beitou was like a natural film studio. Over 100 films were shot in Beitou, winning Beitou the reputation of "the Hollywood of the Taiwanese film industry." Today, you can still uncover the splendor of old Beitou by watching these early Taiwanese films.



Best Wishes from the Space-Time Box

Local musician Chen Ming-chang organizes all kinds of activities, including lectures, performances, exhibitions and workshops to contribute to the preservation and promotion of yueqin (moon guitar) culture. 2013 was the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Beitou Public Bathhouse. The Taiwan Yueqin Folk Song Association, artist Yang Yeh and installation artist Aguce worked as a team to organize the event. The exhibition included activities such as painting of music instruments and installation art, and the event organizers donated a "Best Wishes from the Space-Time Box" No.100 Memorial Moon Guitar to the museum, leaving a mark on the 100th anniversary.



Hometown of Hokutolite

Among more than 4,000 minerals in the world, the only toponym named after a Taiwanese place is Hokutolite, which is produced when the green sulfur hot spring water from Hell Valley passes over lands of the Beitou Stream. The environment and conditions required to create Hokutolite are therefore unique. It takes about 120 years for a single centimeter of Hokulite to crystalize; hence, it is fairly rare. A piece of Hokutolite weighing 800 kilograms is the most precious collection of the Beitou Hot Spring Museum.

Chronology of Beitou

- 1600** The plain aborigines had already lived in Taiwan for thousands of years. The Kipatauw, Kirananna and Kirabaraba communities of the Ketagalan tribe lived in Beitou area.
- 1632**
1664 The Spanish and Dutch engaged in sulfur trading and a variety of commercial activities with the plain aborigines.
- 1697** Yu Yong-he came to Beitou to mine sulfur. His book, *Bi Hai Ji You*, or "Tourist Notes on Small Sea", is the earliest tourist report on Taiwan.
- 1893** The German sulfur merchant Ouely discovered the hot springs in Beitou.
- 1896** Matsumoto Kametaro, the chief of the financial division of Taipei Army Office built the Songtaoyan hot spring Hotel. Asahigumi built the Baoyangyuan Hotel. Hirata Gengo, a Japanese businessman from Osaka, set up the Tiangouan hot spring Hotel. These are the three earliest hot spring hotels in Taiwan.
- 1898** The Beitou Branch of the Japanese Military Hospital (presently known as Xiangyang Academy) was completed.
- 1901** The Beitou-Tamshui Railway and the Beitou Railway Station began operating.
- 1905** Japanese researcher Okamoto Yohachiro discovered Hokutulite in Beitou Stream. Hokutulite is currently the only stone named after the name of place in Taiwan. The consecration ceremony for the Guanyin statue, which guards Beitou hot springs, was held.
- 1907** The Taiwan Women's Charity Association set up "Charity Bathhouse (Bath of Iron)" as the first public bathhouse, commonly referred to as "Sann-ts'inn-king" by Taiwanese citizens.
- 1909** Hirata Gengo published a guide on Beitou's hot springs.
- 1911** The construction of the Beitou Waterway had already begun in response to the development of the hot springs.
- 1912** Matsumoto Kametaro constructed a kiln at the site known as Guizikeng in modern times. He successfully produced fine pottery works, referred to as *Hokuto yaki* (Beitou pottery).
- 1913** The Beitou Public Bathhouse and Beitou Park were completed. The stone arch bridge and elegant fountain were the park's central attractions.
- 1915** The planning of "Tesshinin," a Japanese Shingon Buddhist temple that is rare in Taiwan, began. The temple is currently known as Puji Temple.
- 1916** The Hot Spring Line, a 1.2-kilometer railway branch between Beitou and Xinbeitou, was completed. Xinbeitou Station began operating. The area surrounding Beitou Park became the tourist center of Beitou area.
- 1920** Beitou became a village under the jurisdiction of the Shichisei District, Taihoku (Taipei) Prefecture. The Bank of Taiwan building in Beitou was completed.
- 1921** The Kazan Guesthouse, now known as the Taiwan Folk Arts Museum, was completed. It is one of the largest remaining single Japanese wooden buildings in Taiwan.
- 1923** The Japanese were growing japonica rice around Bamboo Lake. Japanese Crown Prince Hirohito arrived at Taipei. During his short tour, he visited the Beitou Public Bathhouse and stepped on a stone in Beitou Stream for observation. In memory of Hirohito's visit, people protected the stone and erected a tablet with the inscription "In Memory of His Imperial Highness's Crossing the Stream."
- 1925** Construction of the Beitou Grotto for the Buddhist deity Acala was completed.
- 1929** Construction of Caoshan Public Baths (now the Taipei Teachers' Training Center) was completed.
- 1949** The authorities included Beitou as a part of Yangmingshan Scenic Area and the administrative division was changed to Beitou Township, Taipei County.
- 1967** Beitou Town's status was upgraded to be included as a part of Taipei City.
- 1979** Licensed prostitution was abolished in Beitou.
- 1985** Yangmingshan National Park was established.
- 1988** The last running train on the Beitou-Tamshui Railway left the station. Beitou Railway Station became history.
- 1994** On a field trip for local culture course, teachers and students from the Beitou Elementary School came upon the deserted Beitou Public Bathhouse. They enlisted local cultural workers and historians to launch a campaign to save the historical site.
- 1997** The Beitou Public Bathhouse was classified as Class III Historic Monument by the Ministry of the Interior on February 20, 1997.
- 1998** The Beitou Hot Spring Museum officially opened on October 31, 1998.
- 2006** The Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch re-opened. The two-story wooden building is the first eco-friendly, green library in Taiwan.
- 2011** The first Taiwan Yueqin Folk Lore Festival was held in Beitou, becoming a grand annual autumn event. Meanwhile, Beitou was awarded 3 stars by Michelin for the best international tourist spot due to its distinguished charm.
- 2013** The Taipei City Government recognized Hokutulite as a rare mineral, and designated Beitou Stream as a protected natural area to conserve it.
- 2014** Xinbeitou Railway Station building components were returned to Taipei from the Taiwan Folk Village in Changhua after years of efforts from local residents and community activists who successfully acquired government support.
- 2016** Xinbeitou Railway Station commenced reconstruction.
- 2017** Xinbeitou Railway Station was rebuilt near its original site and open to visitors, with a series of activities held for the "Rebirth of Century-old Train Station" event.
- 2018** After a year of restoration, the museum was reopened, marking the 20th anniversary of the Beitou Hot Spring Museum.
- 2023** Beitou Public Bathhouse 110th Anniversary and Beitou Hot Spring Museum 25th Anniversary.