



A Building for Eternity

The Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology

The establishment of the Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology began in 1990 when rescue excavations were required at the Shihshanhang archaeology site. At the time, the government wanted to build a sewage treatment plant which was to be located on the site area. In response, the archaeological community strongly called for emergency rescue of the site, and their calls were met by enthusiastic public support. As a result, part of the site was preserved and designated as a "Second Class Monument". Today it is designated as a National Historic Site. Furthermore, in 1992, the Executive Yuan ratified a plan by which the then Taipei County Government would be responsible for setting up the Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology in order to preserve and display cultural relics unearthed at the Shihshanhang Site. The museum officially opened on April 24, 2003.

The museum was designed by architect Sun Te-hung, with the inspiration for the design coming from archaeological excavations and from the sea crossings by boat made by the ancestors of many Taiwanese. The museum is composed of three groups of buildings of distinct form, differentiated by imagery of mountains and the sea, and past and present. The buildings are constructed using béton brut (unfinished concrete), sandstone and aged metal plates.

The entire museum is constructed upon a concavity sunk 1.5 meters below ground. Before visitors go into the museum, they must cross a ramp that goes upward and then extends on a gradual downward slope, thus symbolizing their entrance into an underground treasure trove unearthed by archaeologists.

The most eye-catching elements of the museum construction are the "Whale Dune Observation Platform" and the oblique-angled "Archaeological Octagonal Tower." The observation platform represents the sighting of a whale's back in the ocean and the sand dunes where the people of Shihshanhang lived. It is reached by climbing stairs from ground level outside the museum and is the perfect spot for watching the sunset or enjoying the beautiful scenery of the Tamsui River estuary and Guanyin Mountain. The "Archaeological Octagonal Tower" with its irregular, slanting sides, symbolizes the damage that sites endure and our inability to fully restore historical truth.

The museum building received first prize in the 2002 "Taiwan Architecture Prize" as well as the 2003 "Far Eastern Architecture Awards". In 2014, it received the Golden Lion Award under the category of culture, education and public architecture in the "National architecture awards".

新北市立

十三行博物館

Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology

Transportation

By MRT and Bus

- Exit 1, Tamsui MRT Station, Tamsui-Xinyi line → Ferry → Red 13 bus → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology Stop
- Exit 1, Guandu MRT Station, Tamsui-Xinyi line → Red 13 bus → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology Stop
- Exit 1, Guandu MRT Station, Tamsui-Xinyi line → Red 22 Bus → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology (Renai Road)Stop → Shihshanhang Road → Walk 5 minutes
- Exit 1, Luzhou MRT Station, Zhonghe-Xinlu line → No. 704 Bus → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology (Renai Road)Stop → Shihshanhang Road → Walk 5 minutes
- No.927 Bus (Sanchong- Bali) → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology (Renai Road)Stop → Shihshanhang Road → Walk 5 minutes
- No.963 Bus (Banqiao- Bali) → Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology (Renai Road)Stop → Shihshanhang Road → Walk 5 minutes

By Car

- Guandu Bridge → Provincial Highway 15 in the direction of Bali → Zhonghua Road → Wenchang Road → Museum Road
- Provincial Highway 64 (Express way) Bali Interchange → Zhonghua Road → Bali Boulevard, Shanggan 3rd Road → Museum Road

Address

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www.facebook.com/13hangmuseum

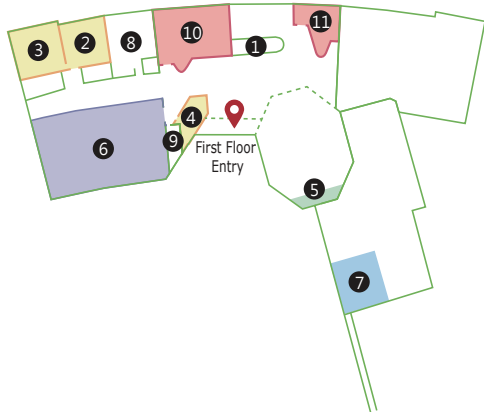


Floor Plan

Museum Floor Plan

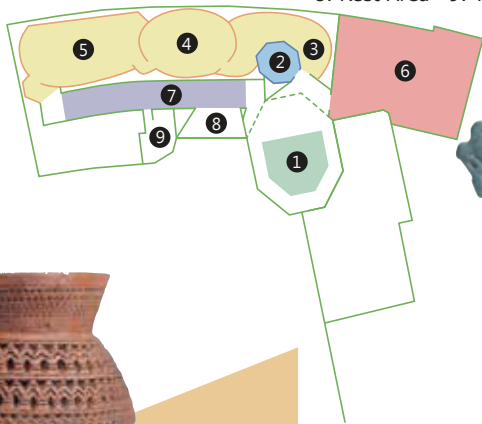
1F _____ First Floor Plan

1. Information Desk
2. The Mystery of the Sea: Exhibition of Underwater Archaeology A
3. VR Experience Space I
4. VR Experience Space II
5. Cultural Layer
6. Auditorium
7. A Class Room A
8. Toilet
9. Nursing Room
10. 13 Café
11. Gift Shop



2F _____ Second Floor Plan

1. Archaeology Test Pits
2. Children's Archaeology Experience Room
3. Archaeological Workstation
4. Traveling Bali Through Time
5. Life In Shihsanhang
6. Special Exhibits Hall I
7. Second Floor Gallery
8. Rest Area
9. Toilet



Educational Displays _____

Permanent Exhibition and Special Exhibitions

Archaeologists are like detectives across time and space, searching for evidence in the artifacts and traces they unearth that help them gradually construct a better understanding of how people used to live. The permanent exhibition showcases the steps archaeologists take in their research: as visitors make their way up the stairs they can see a representation of the different layers of the Shihsanhang site and a model of the work done in an archaeological pit, conveying sense of what archaeological fieldwork is like. Located by the second-floor entrance, the Children's Archaeology Experience Room features an excavation sandbox where kids can experience archaeological excavation for themselves. They are encouraged to search for buried pieces of pottery, stone tools and animal bones, measuring and classifying any specimens they find. A 3D pot jigsaw puzzle also allows the children to experience relic restoration first hand.

After the artifacts are measured they must be conserved and researched. The Archaeological Workstation provides a detailed introduction to specimen characteristics and the techniques people used to make the objects in their lives. Through observation and hands-on interaction, visitors can learn more about the scientific methodologies archaeologists employ to better understand the past.

Archaeological research has allowed us to gradually piece together the cultural-historical story of the Shihsanhang site. The "Traveling Bali Through Time" exhibition hall looks back from today to 200,000 years ago: using technologies such as conductive ink, virtual reality, interactive exhibits, augmented reality and sandbox projection, it tells the story of Bali's ecological resources, shipping along the Tamsui River, immigrant settlements, and the prehistoric Shihsanhang settlement. The "Life In Shihsanhang" exhibition hall presents artifacts unearthed at the site, providing an in-depth introduction to the living resources, exquisite handicraft techniques, trade, and lives of the prehistoric Shihsanhang people.

Located on the first floor of the museum, "The Mystery of the Sea: Exhibition of Underwater Archaeology" welcomes visitors to enter into an underwater world through a 360-degree virtual ocean floor tunnel. An archaeology lab and virtual reality display help them feel they have personally entered the ocean's depths and better understand the unique features of underwater archaeological work.

Special Exhibits Hall I and Second Floor Gallery provide spaces for wonderful, periodic special exhibitions in archaeology, anthropology, and ethnology that reconstruct the details of the cultural past.



Expansive Greenery of the Museum Grounds _____

The Comfortable and Pleasant Sunshine Plaza

The beautiful setting of the Sunshine Plaza offers the perfect venue for all kinds of art exhibitions and performances. Along one side of the vast lawn are exhibited works of outdoor installation art based on the myths and legends of the Austronesian peoples. On the other side visitors can visit an Austronesian-style stilt house—the perfect location for a stroll, picnics or for teaching during school trips.

Opening Hours

Weekday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm (Mon. - Fri.)

Weekend, 9:30 am - 6:00 pm (Sat., Sun. and National Holiday)

Admissions

80 NTD (ticket exemptions will be offered in accordance with museum ticket sales rules)

Closed

1. First Monday of every month (if a national holiday falls on the first Monday of the month, the museum will open as normal and close the following day)
2. Chinese New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
3. Any other closure time announced by the museum