

TRAVEL

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Taipei's

Christmas trees

Taipei 101

The city's tallest building, Taipei 101, made sure its Christmas tree stood out from the crowd by cooperating with Tiffany & Co to create a fantasy gift tree. The 15m-tall tree sits on top of a giant Tiffany & Co gift box in the luxury jeweler's signature blue and white packaging, while the tree itself is cloaked in countless more gift boxes.

WHERE: Taipei 101 (台北101), 7, Xinyi Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市信義路5段7號)
WHEN: Until Jan. 4, 2009
DETAILS: Daily from 5pm to 6am. Tel: (02) 8101-8898

The economy may be looking down, but Taipei has everyone looking up — at its spectacular Christmas trees. A visit to one of these extravagant trees with your loved ones is a great way to soak up the Christmas atmosphere, at no cost at all. Here are five of the capital's best



Xinyi Vieshow

Xinyi's Vieshow has, unsurprisingly, opted for a cinema-themed Christmas tree. A gigantic roll of film spirals upwards to create a conical shape for the "tree," adorned with stills from classic Hollywood films. The scarlet frame of the Vieshow building and the blue Christmas lights on neighboring trees complete the theatrical Christmas scene.

WHERE: Xinyi Vieshow (信義威秀), 16 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路16號)
WHEN: Until Wednesday
DETAILS: Daily from 6pm to midnight. Tel: (02) 8780-5566



Core Pacific City Mall

Made with 35,000 LED lights and 350 silver balls, the conical 11m-tall Christmas tree outside City Living Mall contrasts with the shopping center's globular structure. Although LED lights cost more than traditional bulbs, they are an environmentally friendly choice that reduces the tree's carbon footprint and saves the mall a packet in electricity costs, spokeswoman Chou Yong-pui (周永蓓) said.

WHERE: Core Pacific City Mall, also known as City Living Mall (京華城), 138, Bade Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市八德路四段138號)
WHEN: Until the middle of next month
DETAILS: Lights go on daily from 5pm to 10:30pm. Tel: (02) 3762-1888



Breeze Center

The fashionable Breeze Center shelled out a hefty NT\$20 million for its 14m-tall Christmas tree blanketed by LED lights that give an icy silver glow. The half-dozen trees nearby are similarly outfitted in silver lights to resemble snow-covered trees, creating the atmosphere of a winter wonderland on the streets of Taipei.

WHERE: Breeze Center Civic Boulevard Entrance (微風廣場市民大道入口處), 39, Fuxing S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市復興南路一段39號)
WHEN: Until today
DETAILS: Sunday to Wednesday from 5:30pm to 9pm; Thursday to Saturday until 10pm. Tel: (02) 6600-8888



Miramar Entertainment Park

Against the backdrop of Miramar Entertainment Park's towering Ferris wheel stands a 10m-tall Christmas tree — erected in the middle of the complex's fountain. The tree is decorated with gold-sequined ribbons, red and green balls and 40 strands of sparkling LED lights. As the lights change color at regular intervals, the tree resembles a brightly garnished multi-tier cake.

WHERE: Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園), 20 Jingye 3rd Rd, Neihu Dist, Taipei City (台北市內湖區敬業三路20號)
WHEN: Until Feb. 9, 2009
DETAILS: Daily from 5pm until the following morning. Tel: (02) 2175-3456