

Little Manila refers to an area in Zhongshan District, which is a local Taiwanese area during the weekdays. It stretches from the east of section 3 of Zhongshan N Road to Shuangcheng Street, from Qingguang Market in the south to Fine Arts Park in the north. On Sundays, the first thing you can hear when visiting Little Manila is laughter from Filipinos. Most Filipino migrant workers here in Taiwan don't have regular days off from work, however, "the Little Manila" is a place Filipino workers can freely gather to enjoy each other's company, find familiar Filipino products and food, and fly their stresses away.

This map, made with Filipino migrant workers, is a project to highlight migrant workers' life in Taiwan on a cultural level, by showing how they have shaped an area within the capital city.

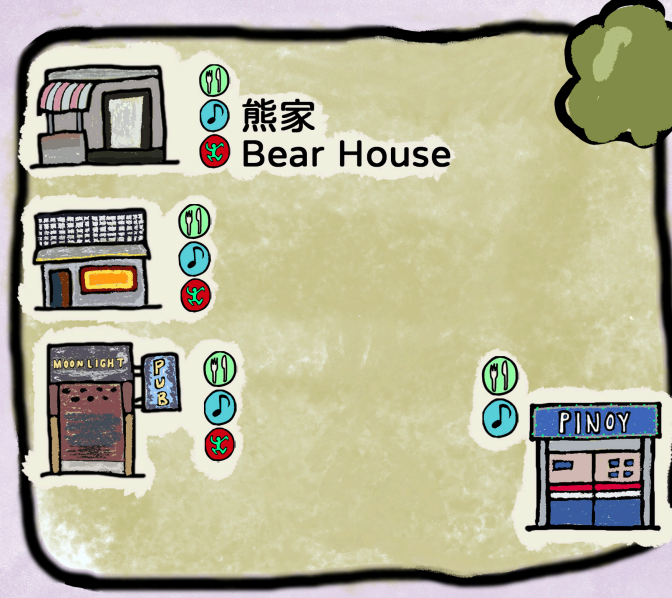
Little Manila welcomes everyone to come and discover this unique district. This map is an offering to share an area, which enables migrant workers to find joy and a home away from home.

Taipei's Little Manila: Cultural Map

民族東路
MINZU East Road



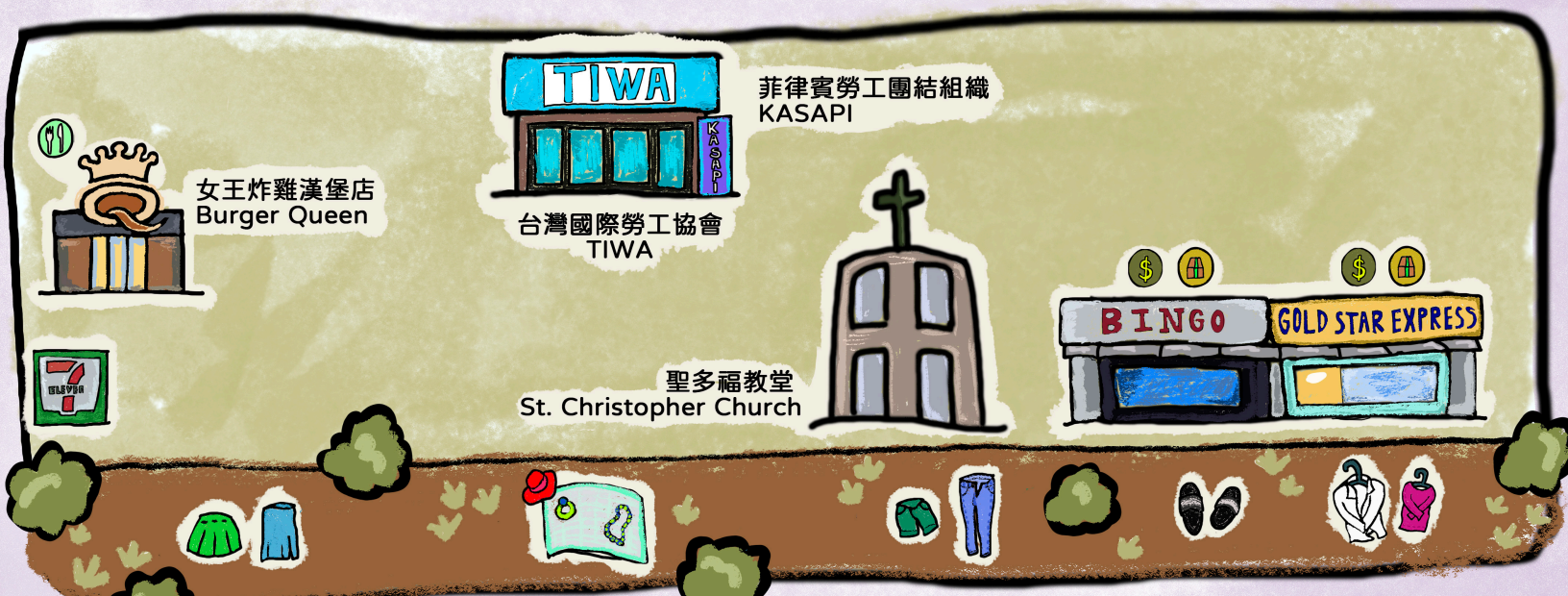
德惠街
Dehui Street



農安街
Nongan Street

- Food
- Shopping
- Smallwares
- Remittance
- Singing
- Dancing
- Cargo

台北美術公園
Taipei Art Park

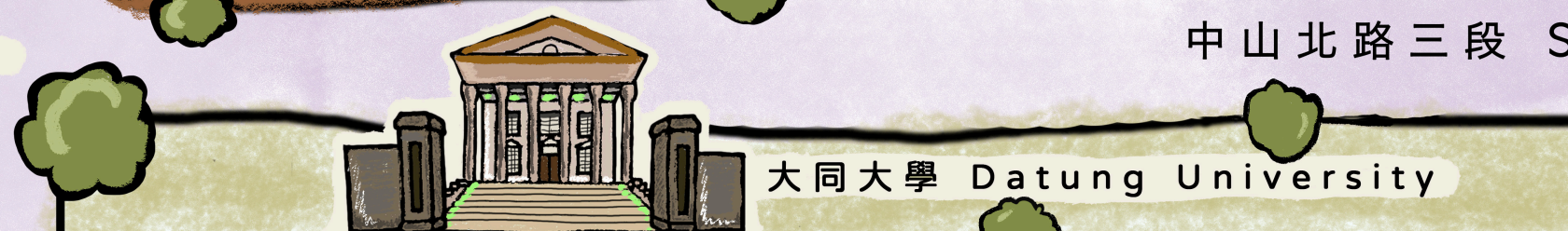


德惠街
Dehui Street



農安街
Nongan Street

台北花博爭艷館
Taipei Expo



中山北路三段 Section 3 of Zhongshan North Road



KASAPI & TIWA



KASAPI (KApulungan ng SAmahang Pilipino)

Established in 2003 with the assistance of TIWA, the group participates in labour movements to help migrant workers. KASAPI campaigns for labour rights and holds training courses to empower migrant workers. Workers involved in big labour disputes can fight for equal protection of their working conditions. KASAPI will take care of disputes with open arms.

TIWA (Taiwan International Workers' Association)

The concept behind TIWA is that all workers share the same fate, regardless of nationality, and should have equal protection of working conditions and labour rights under the law. TIWA is committed to maintaining the labour and human rights of international migrant workers as well as reforming the Taiwan migrant worker system.

Our goals:

1. Abolition of the private broker system and implementation of Government-to-Government (G2G) direct hiring
2. Legal protection for domestic workers' working conditions
3. Freedom to transfer between employers
4. Abolition of the working and residence time limitation for blue-collar migrant workers
5. The right for migrant workers to vote on policies that affect them



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Food

- No visit to Little Manila can be complete without food



When you travel abroad, what is the first thing you get excited about? Of course, it's food! You must try some unique foods here. One thing to remember when you enter Little Manila: you have to rush before Sunday ends.

Even though Taiwan has a variety of great food, it is easy for migrant workers to feel homesick without the taste of home. Little Manila provides homemade Filipino food for migrant workers every Sunday and it's one of their best ways to heal homesickness. There are various restaurants and street vendors serving the tastes of the Philippines on the streets of Dehui, Nongan, and Zhongshan N Road.

If you want to try Filipino food little by little, there are buffets that serve a wide selection of food from fried bananas, smoked fish, sticky rice, barbecue, fried noodles, cakes, and desserts. In Wonwon Building and street restaurants around the area, here are some food recommendations for you to try when visiting Little Manila:

Balut means fertilised developing egg embryo in Tagalog. Compared to versions from other countries, balut in the Philippines has a shorter incubation time, meaning not as much of the embryo is formed. Some may be a little bit afraid to try this delicacy for the first time; however, balut is one special Filipino food you don't want to miss. Look carefully for the word "BALUT" written on a white box.

Halo-halo is one of the most famous desserts that Filipinos in Taiwan enjoy with their friends. Halo-halo means "mix-mix" in Tagalog; it is made up of shaved ice and condensed milk and ice cream on top of different sorts of ingredients such as coconut strips, taro, fruit preserves, and the most important ingredient here in Little Manila—tapioca pearls. Each shop has different styles and ingredients for making halo-halo, so you can choose whichever you prefer.

Pancit is a general term referring to various types of traditional fried noodle dishes in the Philippines. Long noodles are a symbol of long life and therefore, an important dish in Filipino culture. It is often served for birthdays and special occasions. When a Filipino serves you some pancit, try to not cut the noodle, as it may affect your long life and good health.

Supermarkets, Remittance, Cargo

- We send everything but us

After remitting 80% of their monthly wages to family members in the Philippines, migrant workers—especially domestic caretakers—will have only 3,000–5,000 NTD (USD 90–150) left for their personal use. The main reason migrant workers come all the way to Taiwan is to earn a living and feed their families, so it is a big deal to be able to remit money back to their families. In the past, migrant workers had to go to EEC, RJ, iREMIT, or LBC personally to remit. Now, migrant workers have found better ways using new technologies as well as ibon kiosks located in convenience stores.

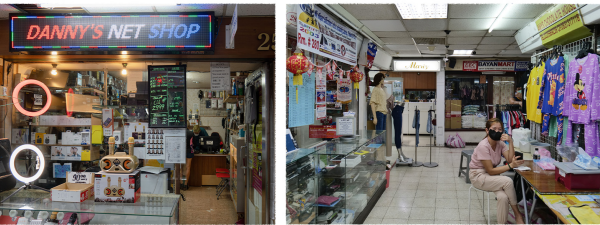
So how do these remittance stores still survive in Little Manila? It's because they also have other special services for migrant workers. Most remittances have a door-to-door cargo service that is faster than the Taiwanese post office. The stores charge by the box size, not by weight; so migrant workers can put as many gifts as possible in one box. Some remittance stores are also linked with grocery stores allowing people to buy products from the Philippines such as snacks, canned food, instant noodles, daily necessities, and so on.

If you want to find something special, the whole sidewalk of Section 3 of Zhongshan N Road is for you to grab street food, cosmetic products, clothing, handbags, etc.



Wonwon Building

- A million dollars of everything



Wonwon Building is a shopping centre located on the corner of Section 3 of Zhongshan N Road and Nongan St. It was originally a shopping mall for selling imported products in Taipei, but after a big fire broke out inside, the mall wasn't able to attract Taiwanese vendors to rent storefronts. Instead, Filipino store owners moved in, renting parts of the building for cheap prices.

Wonwon Building begins on the first and second floor with all kinds of commodities, so migrant workers can fetch their daily necessities inside. Although the shops in the building are small, around 3 to 6 square meters, there are restaurants, food stalls, beauty products, clothing, accessories, massage parlours, passport photo studios, copy machines, mobile phones and SIM cards, repair of electronics, travel and employment agencies, private loan services, and more that you will find when visiting.

Before people had easy access to the internet, Wonwon functioned as an internet cafe where migrant workers could express their complex emotions and speak to their families and friends through computer screens. The emotions migrant workers used to share within the building are still running through it, holding up each other's hopes and wishes.

Entertainment

- Where the heartache goes away

Imagine that you are only given one day off from your work, after many days of not knowing when you can have one. That's how migrant workers come to entertain themselves here on Sunday. Little Manila provides important and safe places for migrant workers to make the most of their holiday, from a park area to chat and sometimes to celebrate birthdays, to a place to sing and dance with drinks.



Disco 150 (Farmhouse) is a local pub during weekdays that turns into a nightclub for migrant workers on Sundays. The entry fee is 150 NTD and comes with one free drink. As migrant workers often have to rush home to make dinner, even on their holidays, its business hours are from afternoons to evenings. This club is open for everyone to visit and see the beauty of a nightclub that closes before the night comes.

Disco 00 (B52) is a nightclub where migrant workers go after the afternoon club (Disco 150). There's no entry fee but you will have to buy at least one drink; otherwise, the owner will not take his eyes away from you. More like a standard nightclub, B52 is a great starting point to learn about the nightlife of Little Manila.

KTV (Chatters, Moonlight, etc.) - In Little Manila, there are many KTV locations to sing songs for free if you order some drinks or food. They all have a book with thousands of songs in it. You may want to ask Filipino people there how to sing their favourite Filipino songs and dance along!

Parks (Zhongshan Park, Taipei Art Park)

Parks in Little Manila take a greater role in bonding the migrant workers' community. Unlike disco clubs and KTVs, migrant workers go to parks when they want a bit more quiet space for in-depth conversations with their friends, a good rest, or a birthday celebration with no disturbances. Since there's public WiFi at Taipei Art Park, you can see many migrant workers speaking to their families over the phone. Parks in Little Manila are not only a bonding place for migrant workers, but also a bonding place for family members who cannot physically be together for the moment.



The Little Manila History

- We're fairly successful

Zhongshan North Road (中山北路) has been carved with endless stories. During the Japanese Occupation, it was the imperial street leading to Taiwanese shrines, the gathering place of Japanese elites, and the first modern road to be laid in Taiwan. After World War II, Zhongshan N Road was built as a "national road" symbolising Taiwan's modernisation and development. With consular offices of various countries being set up here, it became known as the most international location in Taiwan.

In the 1950s, the U.S. military stationed in Taiwan to defend Taiwan during the Cold War. In 1965, when the Vietnam War started, Taiwan became a resting place when American soldiers temporarily left the battlefield. With the arrival of American soldiers, the area became an American concession, and Qingguang market (晴光市場) became a well-known market for imported goods. The area grew into a place for entertainment, with not only bars and pubs opening up, but also a growing sex industry.

In 1992, after the official introduction of foreign workers, St. Christopher's Church—which was originally known for its English-language Mass—began to attract a large number of Filipinos every holiday. Merchants and vendors, specialising in business with foreign labourers, then followed. In just a few years, Section 3 of Zhongshan N Road has become the largest Filipino holiday gathering place in Taipei, and even all of Taiwan.

Church

- Faith is allowed



In Little Manila, there are churches where migrant workers go to pray for the safety of their families in the Philippines and all migrant workers living in Taiwan. One of them is St. Christopher's Church, and the reason migrant workers worship him is that he is the saint of all travelers. St. Christopher's Church opened in 1967 with an English-language worship service for the U.S. army. However, due to changes in migration and a growing number of Filipino workers, the church gradually started having worship services in Tagalog, making Little Manila an important religious location. For the Filipino community, the churches became a place to not only hear God's voice, but also that of their mother language. Being in the presence of worship can give anyone peace, no matter if you believe in God or not.

Have a visit to one of the churches in Little Manila to listen for yourself and see how migrant workers pray for each other's safety.



TAIPEI'S LITTLE MANILA

: CULTURAL MAP

