**Kaoshiung**

The city of Kaohsiung **lies by** the waters of the Taiwan Strait, in southwestern Taiwan. **Over the last three centuries**, Kaohsiung has **grown** from a humble trading village,

**into** Taiwan’s busiest harbor.

As a shipping and industrial **powerhouse**, Kaohsiung has had a gritty past. But today,

a fresh wind is blowing, creating a modern, creative, and highly liveable city that still honors its hardworking beginnings.

**Just a short ferry ride from** the city’s downtown is the narrow island of Cijin, **the**

**place where** the city meets the sea.

This district **serves as** the harbor’s natural breakwater, and has been **home to**

Kaohsiung’s fishing families for generations.

Time slows down here, and the best way to experience the island’s rhythms is by foot

or bicycle.

**Visit** Tianhou Temple, dedicated to the goddess Matzu, the protector of sailors and

fishermen.

**Follow** dramatic coastal paths…then make the short climb to the lighthouse

and fort for commanding views over the city.

When it’s time to swap sea air for mountain air, **head back to** the mainland to Monkey Mountain.

**Meet** the forest’s furry residents, and pause for tea, as you climb ever upward for

more great views.

Wherever you go in Kaohsiung, you’ll be reminded that this is a city with

water in its veins.

The Love River runs right through the heart of the city.

Once little more than a neglected drain, the river’s transformation reflects a city

awakening to its natural beauty.

But if the Love River is the city’s mirror, Lotus Lake is the city’s soul.

From the remains of the Old Wall of Fengshan, explore the lake in a clockwise

direction.

At the Dragon and Tiger Pagodas, entering through the dragon’s mouth and

exiting from the tiger’s, is said to transform bad luck into good fortune.

At the Spring and Autumn Pavilions, pay your respects to the **Goddess of Mercy**

and the **God of War**.

While further around the lake, a towering statue of The Mysterious Warrior,

Xuan Wu, rises from the waters.

Lotus Lake **is surrounded by** more traditional temples too, such as Taiwan’s largest Confucian Temple…and the extraordinary Tianfu Palace.

The area **is filled with** **food stalls**, so enjoy a snack as the sun sets, and the lake lights

up in all its heavenly glory.

After a busy day with the gods, follow your nose to the Liuhe Night Market,

one of Asia’s largest.

Drift along with **the human tide**, through a canyon of neon-lit stalls serving

up all the fruits of the sea.

It’s in moments like this we realise cities are like oceans too, each has its own currents, it’s own moods.

So what are you waiting for?

Come, and dive into Kaohsiung, Taiwan’s best kept secret by the sea.