



At nightfall with bright lights scattered around, all sorts of different vendors begin to appear one after another along the street. Night markets are highly representative of Taiwan's culture. Even if department stores turn their lights off, there is always that one street providing a late-night refuge for passersby. Besides convenience, the night market is also a symbol of Taiwan's excellent public security. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) from the UK publishes the Safe Cities Index (SCI) once every two years. For the report published in August 2019, 60 cities from around the world were given a comprehensive score and ranked according to 4 major aspects: digital security, healthcare, infrastructure, and personal safety. The city of Taipei was ranked 22nd in the world and 6th in Asia. Its overall score exceeds those of Beijing, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, and other first-tier cities in the Asia-Pacific region. In terms of healthcare, Taipei was good enough for 10th place among the world's cities. Its outstanding performance also includes the overall category of "urban resilience" being consistently ranked among the best.

In the economic sector, Taiwan has demonstrated unparalleled strength in the international arena despite its small size. According to its first 2020 report, the Business Environment Risk Intelligence (BERI) report from the US ranked Taiwan 3rd in the world, surpassed only by Switzerland and Norway. BERI is also optimistic that Taiwan will overtake second place by 2025. In addition to its outstanding performance in the fight against the pandemic, Taiwan offers low risks in foreign exchange and fewer currency fluctuations compared to other emerging ASEAN countries, giving foreign investors more confidence. In real estate, Taipei is also one of the cities that many investors have been eyeing. In "Emerging Trends in Real Estate Asia Pacific 2020" published by PwC and the Urban Land Institute in 2019, Taipei has gone against the global economic uncertainty and move up from 21st to 14th place in the rankings. Due to different effects of the trade war, Taiwanese businesses with capital and technical know-how have returned in droves, creating an upsurge in industrial and commercial real estate. Taiwan's land and large-scale commercial real estate transactions in 2019 amounted to NT\$ 400 billion.

This period of flourishing is also the most difficult generation— progress in science and technology has led to today's wealth and convenience, yet the challenge of a peaceful coexistence between humans and the environment is ever-present. The process of urbanization is also testing nature's ability to sustain itself. This is why major cities from around the world are doing their part to promote the idea of a "Smart City". In addition its market stability overall, Taipei's strength as a city is also not to be underestimated. According to the IMD Smart City Index 2019 report*, first-ever published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) and Singapore University of Technology and Design, Taipei stood apart among 102 cities and jumped up to 7th place in the world and 2nd place in Asia, overtaking international cities such as Amsterdam, San Francisco, Vancouver, and Tokyo. Taipei's technology services have also been outstanding, winning the recognition of its citizens.

Even with less than 300 square kilometers in area, Taipei is home to an iconic building (Taipei 101), a world top-15 museum (National Palace Museum), as well as a food culture that includes everything from Michelin restaurants to night market snacks. As for its rich and diverse scenery, from the bustling Xinyi district, the peaceful Yangmingshan, the human warmth in Minsheng community of Songshan, to the urban architecture ranging from modern skyscrapers to historical red brick houses, all work together to create the Taipei urban scenery that we are familiar with. As the saying goes: "A city becomes grand from its architecture, great from its literature and history, and affable from its citizens." Taipei's unparalleled charm is a cross between its architecture, culture, and passion of its citizens.

Note: IMD Smart City Index: Large-scale research on 102 cities from around the world. Using two main criteria (physical facilities and technology services), the research spans 5 categories: health and safety, transportation, citizen activities, job and education opportunities, and governance. The index then dives into the smart city design of each location, and whether the government's actions are in line with the idea of "citizen-oriented", where it strives to improve the lives of its residents through smart technology, stimulate development of different industries, and do its part in upgrading the city's competitiveness as well as sustainable development in the future.