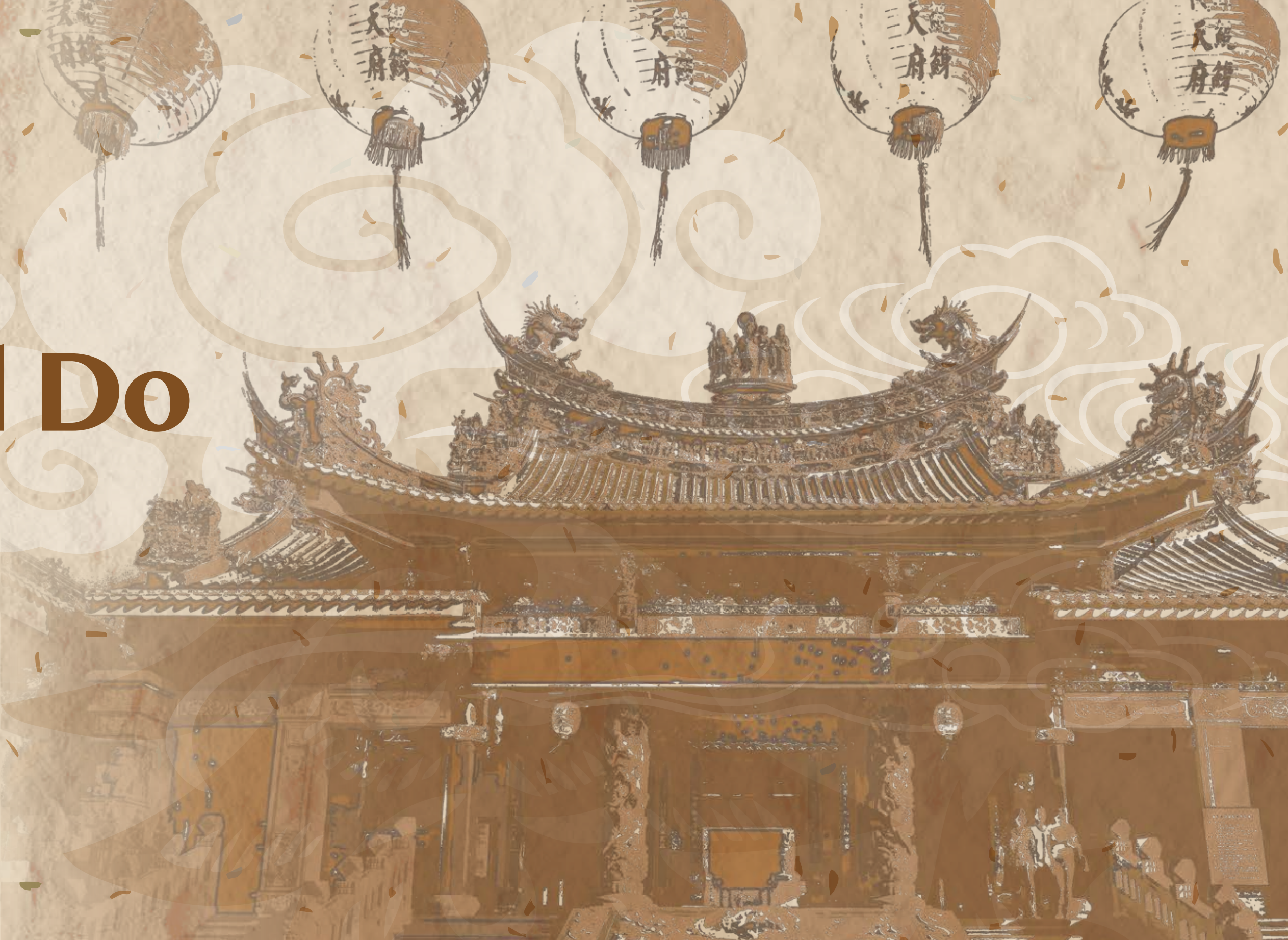


# What to See and Do at Nankunshen Daitian Temple

## 南鯤鯓代天府



At some 340 thousand square meters, Nankunshen Daitian Temple is one of the largest temples in Taiwan, and there is a great deal to see and do here.

The temple was built in the southern Chinese style, with ornate roofs, a large and highly decorated entry gate, and a series of worship halls with courtyards in between. One of the first things you will see when you enter is the Door Gods painted on the temple doorways. These are guardians of the temple, and you may notice that some are painted in such a way that their eyes follow you, keeping an eye on you, as you walk past.

As you progress through the temple, take your time and enjoy the carved decorations, gilt work, and elaborate paintings that cover many of the surfaces. It may come as a surprise that among these ancient treasures are modern murals that pay tribute to famous Taiwanese figures from the present day or portray modern local landscapes.

佔地約三十四萬平方公尺的南鯤鯓代天府是臺灣最大的廟宇之一。除了有華麗的華南風格建築，南鯤鯓代天府還有氣勢磅礴的凌霄寶殿，與適合放鬆身心的蘇杭風格庭院一大鯤園。

## Lingsiao Hall | 凌霄寶殿

Nankunshen temple is a living, working temple, and as such, it will always be a work in progress. At the back of the complex is one of the temple's most recent additions, Lingsiao Hall, completed in 2012. The central altar of the Hall is dedicated to the worship of the Jade Emperor, the supreme deity of the Taoist pantheon. One of the most extraordinary objects in this hall is the Imperial Edict Tablet which records the deity's divine proclamation. The tablet is 6.6 meters tall, 2 meters wide, and 60 cm thick (approximately 20 ft. x 6 ft. x 2 ft.), and is made of pure gold. It is valued at over six hundred million NT dollars. The hall and tablet are the culmination of a half-century of donations on the part of believers and twenty years of construction work.

凌霄寶殿於2012年興建完成，殿內祀奉玉皇上帝，道教信仰中地位最為崇高的神祇。正殿內的玉旨牌位為純金打造，高六點六公尺，寬兩公尺，厚度六十公分，價值超過新台幣六億元。玉旨總重一萬零八百兩的黃金源自信徒幾十年來捐獻的善款與金牌，為凌霄寶殿的鎮店之寶。

## Dakun Garden | 大鯤園

Dakun Garden is another popular recent addition to Nankunshen Temple. Built to the side of the main temple complex, Dakun Garden is a modern park that pays homage to the southern Chinese style exemplified by the traditional gardens of Hangzhou and Suzhou. The park offers visitors a welcome respite from Tainan's summer heat. Its walkways winding among wooded areas and shady cliffside pavilions overlooking the large lake make a great spot for worshippers and visitors alike to slow down and take a break. The garden also houses the Nankunshen Cultural Museum, which provides visitors with information on the history of the temple and Wangye worship, and gives background on the individuals depicted in the temple murals.

也是近期修建完成的大鯤園位於南鯤鯓代天府右側，是盛夏時民衆消暑的好去處。除了享受蘇杭風格庭院麗緻的山水美景、跟著木頭步道造訪沿路的亭臺樓閣，民衆也可以參觀「臺灣五王總廟文史館」或是參與導覽解說，多加了解王爺信仰與南鯤鯓代天府壁畫中的人物。

## Temple Activities | 相關活動

Nankunshen Temple is a very active temple, and it is well worth finding an opportunity to experience one of the many temple festivals. Of particular importance are the birthday celebrations for the Five Royal Lords held during the fourth, sixth, eighth, and ninth months of the lunar calendar.

The largest and most exciting of these festivities takes place on the 26th and 27th of the fourth month to celebrate the birthdays of Lord Li, the leader of the Five Royal Lords, and Lord Fan. This huge celebration features row after row of tables filled with food offerings, groups of pilgrims bearing palanquins carrying visiting deities, go-go dancers to entertain the gods, possessed spirit mediums, and a variety of folk troupe performances, some featuring lion dances and dragon dances. The whole is accompanied by fireworks, music, and huge crowds of people, for an exhilarating experience.

南鯤鯓代天府每年都會舉辦多項活動，供民衆體驗廟宇節慶。其中最具代表性的慶典活動為五府千歲聖誕（每年農曆四、六、八、九月），其中五王之首—李王與范王的聖誕最為盛大，於每年農曆四月二十六日與四月二十七日舉辦。五府千歲聖誕期間，廟裡的供桌擺滿了供品，信徒抬著神轎來參拜，來自全臺的香客也到場進獻，同時還有舞龍舞獅或是陣頭等傳統民俗技藝表演，十分精彩。