Taiwan’s Tea Culture

 For a long time, tea has been an important part of Taiwan’s culture.

 From oolong tea to bubble tea, there are varieties for every age, taste, and schedule. Taiwan is also the home of the Pinglin(坪林) Tea Industry Museum, said to be the world’s largest. In the face of coffee shops opening everywhere, tea still holds a key place in the hearts and lives of Taiwanese people.

 Taiwan’s climate and geography make it an excellent place to grow tea. The crop has been commercially grown on the island for more than 125 years. For decades, Taiwan was a major tea exporter. However, since the 1970s, the domestic market has become more important for local growers. Also, there’s a greater focus on expensive varieties like Taiwan Tea No. 18. It’s a black tea grown in Yuchih(魚池) Township.

 People in Taiwan can enjoy tea at many different places. At traditional tea houses, customers can relax while sipping oolong(烏龍), paochong(包種), and other varieties. These places also serve snacks like dried fruit and peanuts. Maokong, in the southern hills of Taipei, has many such tea houses, in a beautiful setting. It’s hard to imagine a more perfect place to take a guest.

 For people on the go, tea stalls offer dozens of drinks that can be prepared in just a few minutes. These shops have helped make tea very popular in Taiwan. Tea is mixed with milk powder and other ingredients to make delicious Taiwanese inventions like pearl milk tea.

 In the 21st century, cities and countries are starting to look more and more alike. International stores and restaurants are opening in many places. And, international brands are seen on store shelves everywhere. It’s nice to have something special, like Taiwan’s tea culture, to help a country stand out in the crowd.