

11 DAY EXPLORE TAIWAN

DESTINATIONS

—
TAIPEI



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Taipei
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Welcome to Taipei! Your adventure begins in the densely-populated, beautifully located capital of Taiwan. You can arrive at any time today, as there are no activities planned until a welcome meeting at 6 pm. With the formalities out of the way, head out for an optional dinner with your fellow group members this evening. If you arrive with time to spare in Taipei before the meeting, perhaps visit the hot springs at Yangmingshan National Park.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

DAY 2

Destination	Taipei
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A


Explore Taipei this morning by foot and via the city's excellent metro system. Begin with a visit to Sweet Potato Mama, a social enterprise managed by the Genesis Social Welfare Foundation and your introduction to the wild popularity of the root-vegetable-cum-street-snack in Taiwan. Join the local women who have started their own street food businesses, learn how to prepare the spuds and sell them to hungry locals. Next, stroll through Dihua Street to get a sense of Taipei's merchant past as well as see how young entrepreneurs are revitalising the area. Continue to the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, an impressive dedication to the former president of the Republic of China. Enjoy free time for the rest of the day and night. Perhaps check out the Shilin Night Market.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Taipei - Dihua Street walk Taipei - Sweet Potato Mama Urban Adventure Taipei - Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 3

Destination	Taipei  Hualien
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Leave Taipei behind today and take the train to Hualien (approximately 2-3 hours), best known for its beautiful natural surrounds like the rift valley plain and a rocky seashore overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Visit the Danong Dafu Forest Park, 11 hectares of reforested ground with spectacular views and plenty of birdlife. The diligent reforestation efforts have led to the reappearance of a number of species. In the evening, explore the night markets of Hualien. Some local

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specialties are coffin bread (fluffy French toast with fillings), 'exploding' chicken rolls, spring onion pancakes and oyster omelettes. Hualien has the largest indigenous population in Taiwan, so you can also find specialties favoured by some of Taiwan's original inhabitants like bamboo rice, wild bore, birds nest fern and flying fish. You certainly won't go hungry here!

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Hualien - Night Market Hualien - Danong Dafu Forest Park

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 4

Destination	Hualien
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

Visit the Qingshui Cliff, a long stretch of coast that drops almost vertically into the sea. Continue to Taroko National Park, named after the epic Taroko Gorge, which you'll stop to see before heading further into the park. Set out along the Shakadang Trail, which follows an aqua stream to a Truku village (approximately 4 hours return if you finish the whole trail). Entry to the village isn't permitted, but there is sometimes a small market outside selling indigenous foods and handicrafts. If you've got energy leftover after your return. There may be time to explore one of the park's other trails. Your leader can give you advice on the one that's right for you. Return to Hualien for some free time in the evening. Maybe grab a foot reflexology massage after the hard walk today.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Hualien - Qingshui Cliff Taroko Gorge - scenic hike

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch

DAY 5

Destination	Hualien 🚗 Yilan
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

Travel to Yilan. On arrival, visit a spring onion farm to see how one of Taiwan's favourite ingredients is grown. Don some gum boots and get grubby in the fields to pick some produce and then learn how to cook them into the beloved Taiwanese snack pancakes. Continue to the King Car Distillery, the island's only whisky producer, for a tour and tasting of their award-winning Kavalan single malts. The final stop today is the local hot springs, so make sure you have your swimsuit handy, so you don't miss out on a soak. Your evening is free to explore to relax at your hotel in Yilan.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Yilan - Spring onion farm & cooking demonstration Yilan - Whisky distillery

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch

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DAY 6

Destination	Yilan [Boat] Turtle Island 🚢 Jiu fen 🚢 Taipei
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Head out on the water this morning on a cruise around Gueishan (Turtle) Island (approximately 3 hours). From March to September it's possible to spot pods dolphins and even the odd whale during the boat tour. Back on land, drive to the former gold mining centre of Jiu fen, said to be the inspiration for the town in the film Spirited Away. Explore the Old Town at your leisure, perhaps strolling around the beautiful old buildings lining the hillsides, relaxing with a cup of tea at a 100-year-old teahouse or visit the quirky Kite Museum. Some specialty snacks you should seek out while you're in town are fish balls, molasses cakes and taro balls. Return to Taipei tonight.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Jiu fen - Old Town walk Turtle Island - Boat tour

Meals Included Breakfast

Special Information Due to geography and road infrastructure we need to return to Taipei today before exploring the west coast of the island. Please speak to your tour leader if you wish to leave any luggage at the hotel and travel with smaller bags.

DAY 7

Destination	Taipei 🚢 Sun Moon Lake
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Leave Taipei behind today and travel approximately 3 hours by private bus to Sun Moon Lake, perhaps the most iconic destination in Taiwan. The only natural lake in Taiwan is so named for the shapes it's outline forms. Take a walk through the forested foothills of the mountains around the lake along the Ci'en Pagoda Trail (around 1 hour). The end of the trail offers views over the lake, as well as the chance to climb to the top of the eponymous, 46-metre-high pagoda that marks the end of the trail. Later, choose whether to partake in an optional cyclin excursion along some of the scenic paths that trace the lake shores (approximately 1-2 hours). Tonight, relax in your guesthouse in Puli.

Accommodation Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities Sun Moon Lake - Bike Ride Sun Moon Lake - Ci'en Pagoda Trail walk

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 8

Destination	Sun Moon Lake 🚢 Puli 🚢 Sun Moon Lake
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast this morning, embark on a kayaking trip on the serene waters of Sun Moon Lake. Back on land, continue to the Chung Tai Chan Monastery in Puli. Though it was built just 20 years ago, the unique combination of

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Chinese and Western architectural styles makes it an impressive sight. Take a guided tour with one of the resident nuns. Continue by private vehicle to the Hugosum Tea Farm for insight into the production of Taiwan's beloved black tea. You will also have the opportunity to roll your own leaves, which will then be dried and packaged on site for you to take a taste of Taiwan home with you. Spend another night in the Puli guesthouse tonight.

Accommodation Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities Puli - Hugosum Tea Farm Puli - Chung Tai Chan Monastery Sun Moon Lake - Kayaking

Meals Included Breakfast

Special Information Please note that in the colder months from November to March, we will make tea bags from dried tea at the farm as there are no fresh tea leaves available during this period.

DAY 9

Destination	Sun moon Lake 🚗 Fangyuan 🚗 Taichung
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today, head to the flat and fertile land of Changhua County, sometimes known as the 'breadbasket' of Taiwan. Visit Longshan Temple and explore the beautiful gardens on site. Continue to the fishing village of Fangyuan, where you will have the chance to go oyster picking and discover water birds, fiddler crabs and mudskippers. There will also be the chance to sample local seafood like clams, crabs and oysters. In the afternoon, travel to Taichung. Your accommodation this evening is close to the Fenchia Night Market, a great place to head or dinner or a snack this evening.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Lukang - Longshan Temple Fangyuan - Oyster picking

Meals Included Breakfast

Special Information In warm, dry weather there may be a chance to stop at Lukang for a short walking tour of the heritage buildings in the morning. If this excursion takes place, you will visit a local family who still produce handmade noodles using traditional methods. You can even grab a few packets to take home with you – they're even more delicious once you realise all the hard work that goes into making them. Sometimes we may need to do the oyster picking in the morning depending on the tide time changes. If this happens, we won't have time to visit the local family.

DAY 10

Destination	Tainchun 🚗 Taipei
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Before returning to Taipei, stop at the Rainbow Village and learn about the beautiful story behind the incredible murals that cover every inch of the town. If you are lucky, you may just catch the artist Huang Yung-Fu (96-years-old and counting!) sitting outside his house and enjoying some sunshine. Return to Taipei from Taichung, arriving around

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midday. After checking into the hotel, spend the afternoon at the National Palace Museum, home to the world's largest collection of Chinese art. Your evening is free. Perhaps meet up back with your leader and group for an optional dinner, or maybe visit the Taipei 101 Observation Deck for a magnificent view over the city at night.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Taipei - National Palace Museum Taichung - Rainbow Village

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 11

Destination	Taipei
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Your trip comes to an end after breakfast this morning. There are no activities planned for the day, and you're free to leave the hotel at any time after check out.

Meals Included Breakfast

TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Small, personal group experience – no more than 12 people
Experienced Tour Leader throughout
Meals: 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners
Accommodation: Hotel (6nts), Holiday House (2nts), Hanok (1nt)
Transport: Private vehicle, Train, Public bus, Metro, Taxi
Visit Taipei's Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall, Hualien night market, Yilan whisky distillery and go on a boat tour in Turtle Island. Discover Puli on a tea farm visit, Kaya in Sun Moon Lake and go Oyster picking in Fangyuan

Fine Print

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Travellers

This trip is designed for shared accommodation and doesn't involve a compulsory single supplement. Single travellers share with people of the same gender in accommodation ranging from twin to multishare. This only applies to accommodation during the tour - pre-trip and post-trip accommodation will be booked on a single room basis.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra AUD \$1070 subject to availability.

Triple Share

Not available.

Children

Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

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HOW TO BOOK AND PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$100 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$750 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

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