

Your Guide To Taiwan (KnowingTaiwan)

Taiwan which is also known as “Formosa” is the largest island of the located offs the southeastern coast of mainland China. Taiwan can be sub-divided into Taiwan (Main Island) and offshore islands namely Penghu County, Lienchiang County and Kinmen County.

While Taiwan is located in an earthquake and typhoons prone areas, Taiwan also offers much awesome scenery. From high mountains sceneries to cities neon-light charm, Taiwan is one of the few countries in the world which offer a tourist an all rounded touring experience. Be it sightseeing of coastal lines, historical edutainment tour, and relaxation hot spring spa or shopping spree, Taiwan has it for you.

The main island can be further sub-divided into northern, central, southern, and eastern region. The northern, central and southern regions are considered western part of Taiwan. In addition to Taiwan Railway Service, certain places are also served with Taiwan High Speed Train service. They are namely; Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan County, Hsinchu County, Taichung City, Chaiyi County, Tainan City, and Kaohsiung City. For the eastern part of Taiwan, it is served by the Taiwan Railway Service only.

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Northern Region

The northern region consists of 6 areas namely; New Taipei City (新北市), Taipei City (台北市), Keelung City (基隆市), Taoyuan County(桃園縣),Hsinchu County (新竹縣) and Miaoli County(苗栗縣). It can also be referring as 北北基 (新北市,台北市and 基隆市) and 桃竹苗(桃園縣,新竹縣 and 苗栗縣).

New Taipei City (新北市) which is formerly known as Taipei County was upgraded to special municipality on 25th Dec 2010. It is usually refer as Taipei area as it surrounds Taiwan's capital city-Taipei City. Together with Taipei City, it provides most of the tourism activities in the northern region. New Taipei City also includes North East Coast Scenic Area which is famous for its beautiful coastal view. New Taipei City can be connected by Taipei Metro, Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. New Taipei City attractions include Danshui, Jiufen, Yeliu Geological Park and many more.

Taipei City (台北市)is the central city of the largest metropolitan area. It is also the capital of Taiwan. As it is surrounded by New Taipei City, it is usually refer as Taipei area. Together with New Taipei City, it provides most of the tourism activities in the northern region. Taipei City can be connected by domestic flights, Taipei Metro, Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs.Taipei City attractions also include major shopping mall/districts such as Miramar Shopping Mall, Core Pacific City, Ximending, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, Taipei 101, Beitou hot spring area and many more.

Keelung City (基隆市) is a small city which borders New Taipei City. Keelung city is nicknamed the "Rainy Port" for its frequent rain and maritime role. It is also Taiwan 2nd largest port. Due to history and military factor, there are many old fortresses in the city. Keelung City can be connected by Taiwan Railway service, buses and cabs. Keelung city attractions include Fairy Cave, Badouzi coastal park, Miaokou Night Market and many more.

Taoyuan County (桃園縣) is nicknamed as "Door of Taiwan" as Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport is also located here. Taoyuan County can be sub-divided into 5 township-level cities and 8 townships. Taoyuan County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Taoyuan County attractions include Cihu Presidential Burial Place, Dasi Old Town, Guanyin Scenic Area, Window on China Theme Park and many more.

Hsinchu County (新竹縣) is famous for its Hsinchu Technology Zone (新竹科學園區) and its Hakka population. Hsinchu County can be sub-divided into 1 county-controlled city and 12 townships. Hsinchu County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Hsinchu County attractions include 17 Kilometres Coastline,Nei-wan Old Street, Smangus Old Trail, Leofoo Village and many more.

Miaoli County (苗栗縣) is also another area where is notably for its Hakka population. It is also known as "Mountain Town", owing to the number of mountains nearby, making it a destination for hiking. Miaoli County can be sub-divided into 1 township-level city and 17 townships. Miaoli County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Miaoli County attractions include Dahu Strawberry Farm, Sanyi Remains of Longteng Bridge, Shengxing Station, Tai'an Hot Spring and many more.

Central Region

The central region consists of 3 areas namely Taichung City (台中市), Changhua County (彰化縣) and Nantou County (南投縣). It can also be referring as中彰投 (台中市, 彰化縣 and南投縣)

Taichung City (台中市) and Taichung County was merged into single special municipality on 25th Dec 2010. It became the 3rd largest city followed by New Taipei City and Kaohsiung City. With the Central Mountain Range on its East, Taichung is rarely hit by typhoon. Taichung City can be connected by domestic flights, Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Taichung City attractions include Basianshan National Forest Recreation Area, Fushoushan Farm, Yamay Recreation World, Fengjia Night Market and many more.

Changhua County (彰化縣) is the smallest county in Taiwan. Changhua is notably for its big Buddha statue which sits atop of Bagua Mountain. Changhua County can be sub-divided into 1 township-level city and 25 townships. Changhua County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Changhua County attractions include Lugang Old Market Street, Bagua Mountain Scenery Area, Wang Gong Fishing Harbour and many more.

Nantou County (南投縣) is the only land-locked county in Taiwan. It is also the 2nd largest county in Taiwan. Some of the most famous tourist attractions in Taiwan; Sun Moon Lake and Cingjing are located here. Nantou County can be sub-divided into 1 county-controlled city and 12 townships. Nantou County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Nantou County attractions include Cingjing, HeHuanShan National Forest Recreation Area, Puli Brewery Factory, Formosa Aboriginal Culture Village and many more.

Southern Region

The southern region consists of 5 areas namely, Yunlin County (雲林縣), Chaiyi County (嘉義縣), Tainan City (台南市), Kaohsiung City (高雄市) and Pingtung County (屏東縣). It can also be referring as 雲嘉南 (雲林縣,嘉義縣 and 台南市) and (高屏)

Yunlin County (雲林縣) is one of the counties in Taiwan that is part of the Chai-nan Plain and it shares the border with Changhua County. As Yunlin is located on the Chai-nan Plains, the flat land makes it ideal for agriculture. Agricultural products of Yunlin County include pomelo, tea leaves, papaya and muskmelon. Yunlin County can be sub-divided into 1 county-controlled city and 19 townships. Yunlin County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Yunlin County attractions include Hebaoshan Coffee Recreational Area, Caoling Scenic Area, Janfusun Fancyworld and many more.

Chaiyi County (嘉義縣) is another county that is located on Chai-nan Plain. Chaiyi has a long history since Qing Dynasty. Both Chaiyi County and City are commonly known as Chaiyi and is famous for its Alishan Scenic Area. Chaiyi County can be sub-divided into 2 county-controlled cities and 16 townships. Chaiyi can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Chaiyi attractions include Fengchihu Scenic Area, Dongshi Fisherman's Wharf, Budai Fish Market and many more.

Tainan City (台南市) is another newly upgraded municipality after the merging of Tainan City and Tainan County on 25th Dec 2010. It is also the 5th largest city in Taiwan. Tainan City begins its history as early as 17th century during the Dutch rule. It starts off with trading activities with the Sirayan people who dominate the region. Tainan City is also the only place which have mud hot spring in Taiwan. Tainan City can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Tainan City attractions include Fort Anping, Cigu Salt Mountain, Fire and Water Homologous and many more.

Kaohsiung City (高雄市) is the 2nd largest city in Taiwan. It is also one of five special municipalities in Taiwan after the merging of Kaohsiung City and Kaohsiung County in 25th Dec 2010. The port of Kaohsiung is the largest port in Taiwan and the city is also the home of Taiwan's Navy. Kaohsiung International Airport is also located here. Kaohsiung City provides most/all the tourism activities in the southern region. Kaohsiung City can be connected by Kaohsiung Metro, Taiwan Railway Service, Taiwan High Speed Train, buses and cabs. Kaohsiung City attractions include Love River, 85 SKYTOWER, E-Da Outlet Mall, Cijin Island and many more.

Pingtung County (屏東縣) is the southernmost county in Taiwan. Taiwan oldest National Park; Kenting National Park is located here. Pingtung County is notably for its Hengchun Peninsula which is also the southernmost area of Taiwan. Pingtung County can be sub-divided into 1 county-controlled city and 32 townships. Pingtung County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs but for Hengchun Peninsula, only buses and cabs. Pingtung County attractions include Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area, Liuqiu Island, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Gas of flames, Eluanbi Park and many more.

Eastern Region

The eastern region consists of 3 areas namely Yilan County (宜蘭縣), Hualien County (花蓮縣) and Taitung County (台東縣). It can also be referring as 宜花東 (宜蘭縣, 花蓮縣 and 台東縣)

Yilan County (宜蘭縣) is the only county located on the north-eastern part of Taiwan. Yilan County is notably for its Yilan International Children's Folklore and Folk game Festival (宜蘭國際童玩藝術節). Yilan is also famous for its hot spring and cold spring. Yilan County can be sub-divided into 1 township-level city and 11 townships. Yilan County can be connected by Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Yilan County attractions include Taiping Shan National Forest Recreation Park, Dongshan River Scenic Area, Jiaoxi Hot Spring, Luo dong Night Market and many more.

Hualien County (花蓮縣) which is one of the three counties located on the eastern part of Taiwan. It is also the largest county in Taiwan. Hualien is notably for its Taroko National Park. Hualien County is also famous for its East Coast National Scenic Area which area is spread across from Hualien to Taitung. Hualien County can be sub-divided into 1 county-controlled city and 12 townships. Hualien County can be connected by domestic flights, Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Hualien County attractions include Ami Cultural Village, Qingxiu Temple, Hualien Farglory Ocean Park and many more.

Taitung County (台東縣) is also known as "Taiwan Back Mountain". Due to its remote location and isolation by mountains, Taitung mostly escaped the urbanization and pollution that have come to plague much of the island's lowland areas. Taitung County also administered 2 major islands, Green Island and Orchid Island. Green Island is notably for its infamous penal colony from 1947 to 1987 while Orchid Island is famous for its home to the Tao, an ethnic minority group who migrated to the island from the Batan Archipelago 800 years ago. Taitung County can be sub-divided into 1 township-level city and 15 townships. Taitung County can be connected by domestic flights, Taiwan Railway Service, buses and cabs. Green Island and Orchid Island can only be reached by domestic flights and ferries. Taitung County attractions include underwater seabed hot spring (Green Island), Water Running Up, San Xian Tai, Jhiben Hot Spring and many more.

Offshore Islands

Other than the main island, Taiwan also has 3 offshore islands namely; Penghu County (澎湖縣), Lienchiang County (連江縣) and Kinmen County (金門縣). It can also be referring as 離島.

Penghu County (澎湖縣) is also known as “Pescadores”. Penghu County is an archipelago consisting of 90 small islands and islets. Penghu begins its history as early as 17th century. The islands were then ruled by pirates. Penghu is most notably for its Penghu Trans-Oceanic Bridge. The bridge is linked between Baisha Township and Siyu Township. It is also the longest of its kind in East Asia, at 2.5km long. Penghu County can be sub-divided into 1 township-level city and 5 townships. Penghu County can be connected by domestic flights and ferries only. Penghu County attractions include Penghu Aquarium, Double Heart Stone, Cimei Lighthouse, Penghu Green Turtle Tourism and Conservation Centre and many more.

Lienchiang County (連江縣) is also known as “Matsu Islands”. It is named after the Goddess Mazu. Lienchiang County is another small archipelago consisting of 19 small islands and islets. Matsu Islands is notably for its defense against mainland China during the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1958. Since then Matsu Islands had been the first line of defense against China. It is also the 2nd closest located island to China after Kinmen. Matsu Islands is also famous for their historical sites and beautiful scenery. Lienchiang County can be sub-divided into 4 townships. Lienchiang County can be connected by flights only. Lienchiang County attractions include Beihai Tunnel, Tunnel 88, Matzu Distillery, Dongyin Lighthouse and many more.

Kinmen County (金門縣) is also known as “Quemoy Islands”. Kinmen County is the closest island next to China. Kinmen County is notably for its defense against mainland China during the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1958. Since then Kinmen County had been the first line of defense against China. Kinmen County remains as a military reserve until mid-1990s. Kinmen is also famous for their artillery shell knives, military fortifications and old-style architecture. Kinmen County can be sub-divided into 6 townships. Kinmen County can be connected by flights and ferries only. Kinmen County attractions include Gunningtou Battle Museum, Zhaishan Tunnel, Kinmen Gaoliang wine, Qiou Liangung's Mother Chastity Honorific Arch and many more.