



CAPITAL CITY

The capital city of Taiwan is Taipei.

AREA

Area: 36,197 km²

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

Taiwan is an island located in East Asia, off the southeastern coast of China, across the Taiwan Strait. It is surrounded by the East China Sea to the north, the Philippine Sea to the east, the Luzon Strait to the south, and the Taiwan Strait to the west. Taiwan's terrain is mostly mountainous in the east, with flat plains in the west where most of the population resides.

POPULATION

Taiwan's population, estimated at around 23.1 million, is made up mainly of three main ethnic groups. The majority, around 97%, belong to the Han group, comprising the Hoklo (around 70%), the Hakka (around 15%), and the Waishengren (descendants of the Chinese who came after 1949, around 12%). Taiwan's indigenous peoples make up around 2.5% of the population and are divided into 16 officially recognised groups, such as the Amis, Atayal and Paiwan. These indigenous peoples have their own distinct languages and cultures, although the influence of Han culture is dominant.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Taiwan is Mandarin Chinese, which is used in government, education, and media. However, Taiwan is a linguistically diverse society with several other languages spoken by different ethnic groups. Taiwanese Hokkien, spoken by around 70% of the population, is widely used in daily life, especially among the Hoklo people. Hakka, spoken by about 15%, is primarily used in rural communities. Additionally, Taiwan is home to 16 recognized indigenous languages, belonging to the Austronesian family, though many are endangered. English is becoming more prominent, with efforts to make Taiwan a bilingual nation by 2030, particularly in business and education.

CURRENCY

The official currency of Taiwan is the **New Taiwan Dollar** (TWD or NT\$), with common banknotes of 100, 500, and 1000 NTD. At the time of writing (March 2025), the approximate exchange rates are:

- 1 US\$ = 33.08 TWD
- 1 Euro = 35.70 TWD

Travelers can exchange money at airports, banks, and authorized money changers, with Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport often offering competitive rates. ATMs are widely available, especially in convenience stores like 7-Eleven and FamilyMart, and most accept international debit and credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, JCB). While credit cards are commonly accepted in hotels, department stores, and restaurants, cash is still preferred in street markets and small shops.

CLIMATE

Taiwan has a subtropical climate in the north and a tropical climate in the south, with hot, humid summers and mild winters. The island experiences four distinct seasons, though temperatures remain relatively warm year-round.

NORTH

Taipei	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min °C	14	14	16	19	23	25	27	26	25	22	19	16
Max °C	19	19	22	25	29	31	33	33	30	27	24	20

CENTER

Hualien	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min °C	15	16	18	20	23	25	26	25	24	22	19	17
Max °C	21	22	24	26	29	31	32	32	30	28	26	23

SOUTH

Kaohsiung	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min °C	15	16	19	22	25	26	26	26	25	23	20	17
Max °C	24	24	27	29	30	31	32	31	31	30	28	25

Taiwan, located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, is a highly earthquake-prone region. The Chi-Chi earthquake in 1999, with a magnitude of 7.6, was one of the most devastating in the island's recent history. Taiwan has since introduced strict building codes and safety measures to better withstand earthquakes.

LOCAL TIME

Taiwan is +8 hours from the Greenwich meridian.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Taiwan is **110V**, with type **A** and **B** sockets.



WATER

Tap water is not recommended for drinking. Locals drink boiled or filtered water. Bottled water is widely available.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Taiwan has a highly developed telecommunications network with fast internet, extensive mobile coverage, and affordable services. The main telecom providers—Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan Mobile, and FarEasTone—offer 4G nationwide and expanding 5G networks. Travelers can easily purchase prepaid SIM cards or eSIMs at airports and convenience stores, with unlimited data plans widely available. Free public Wi-Fi, including the government-run iTaiwan service, is accessible in MRT stations, airports, and public areas. Taiwan's country code is +886.

HEALTH & MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

There Medical care is good in urban areas. International clinics are available in Taipei. No specific vaccines are required, but basic ones (Hepatitis A/B, Typhoid) are recommended.

TRANSPORT

Taiwan has a highly efficient and modern transportation system, making travel easy for visitors. The Taiwan High-Speed Rail (THSR) connects Taipei to Kaohsiung in just 90 minutes, while the Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA) operates slower trains reaching smaller towns. Major cities like Taipei, Kaohsiung, and Taoyuan have clean and reliable MRT systems, where travelers can use EasyCard or iPASS for convenience. Buses are affordable and well-connected, though English signage may be limited in rural areas. Taxis are metered, and ride-hailing apps like Uber and Line Taxi operate in urban centers.

DRIVING

In Taiwan, you drive on the right.
Holders of an international driving license are allowed to drive.

CUISINE

Taiwanese cuisine is a rich blend of Chinese, Japanese, and indigenous influences, known for its diverse flavors and street food culture. Popular dishes include beef noodle soup, a national favorite, and lu rou fan (braised pork rice). Taiwan is famous for its night markets, where visitors can try xiaolongbao (soup dumplings), oyster omelets, stinky tofu, and bubble tea, which originated in Taiwan. Seafood is also widely enjoyed, thanks to the island's coastal location.

CUSTOMS & HABITS

Taiwanese culture is deeply influenced by Confucian values, Buddhism, Taoism, and indigenous traditions, shaping daily life, etiquette, and customs. Respect for elders and hierarchy is important, and people often use polite speech and gestures, such as offering items with both hands as a sign of respect. Hospitality is highly valued, and guests are often offered food and drinks; refusing outright may be considered impolite. In social interactions, saving face (maintaining dignity) is crucial, so direct criticism is often avoided. Shoes should be removed before entering a home, and giving gifts is common, though certain items like clocks and sharp objects are avoided due to superstitions. In public, queueing is expected, and loud or disruptive behavior is frowned upon.

PURCHASES

Taiwan offers everything from high-tech gadgets to traditional handicrafts and street market souvenirs. Major shopping areas like Taipei's Ximending, Taichung's Fengjia Night Market, and Kaohsiung's Dream Mall provide a mix of modern and traditional products. Night markets are the best places to buy affordable local snacks, handmade crafts, and unique souvenirs, while department stores and malls offer international brands and luxury goods.

TIPS

Tipping is **not customary**, but it is appreciated in upscale restaurants and hotels. Some establishments add a 10% service charge.

HOW TO GET THERE

Please find below a list of some airlines operating flights to Taiwan:

- ✓ China Airlines
- ✓ EVA Air
- ✓ Starlux Airlines
- ✓ United Airlines
- ✓ Delta Air Lines
- ✓ Korean Air
- ✓ Japan Airlines
- ✓ Cathay Pacific

VISA AND PASSPORT

Travelers to Taiwan need a valid passport with at least six months of validity. Many nationalities, including citizens of the U.S., Canada, the EU, and several other countries, can enter Taiwan visa-free for stays ranging from 14 to 90 days, depending on their nationality. Others may require a visa, which can be applied for through Taiwan's Bureau of Consular Affairs or an overseas Taipei Economic and Cultural Office. Tourist visas require documents such as a completed application, a passport, travel tickets, and proof of travel purpose.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

No mandatory vaccinations, but Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid recommended.

Taiwan is prone to typhoons (July-September). Check forecasts during that time.

Earthquake zone: Familiarize yourself with basic safety tips.



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