



# 8-Day Ilha Formosa Taiwan Tour

Taipei - Sun Moon Lake - Tainan - Kaohsiung - Kenting - Taitung - Hualien - Taroko Gorge



Taiwan was original settled by aboriginals of Malay-Polynesian descent. In the mid-16th century, a Portuguese ship passed the island on its way to Macao. It was named 'Ilha Formosa' (means Beautiful Island) in the captain's log. Thus, the island is also known as Formosa. More comprehensible historical record go back to the early 17th century when the Dutch East Indies Company arrived. They found only aborigine there; so they set up a base and started to administer the island and a social system was established. During this time, the Dutch also brought in Chinese laborers from the China mainland. Eventually, some of these laborers settled and married aborigine wives. Their decedents is referred to as 'local Taiwanese' today. In the mid-17th century, the Ming Dynasty was overthrown by the Manchurians and began the era of the Ching Dynasty. In 1662, Cheng Cheng-Gong (aka. Koxinga), a Ming loyalist, fled to Taiwan, ousted the Dutch and set up a anti-Ching base in the island. In 1683, Cheng's grandson surrendered to the Ching Dynasty and rule of Taiwan fell into the hands of the Manchu Empire. In 1895, China's navy was defeated in the Sino-



Japanese War and Taiwan was ceded to Japan under the Treaty of Shimonoseki. The Japanese occupation, though harsh, but effectively modernized Taiwan. Infrastructure was improved by the introduction of railroads and electricity, social order and health care system was established by the colonial government. Food production was improved significantly by dam-supported irrigation system. By 1905, Taiwan became a major food supplier to the industrialized Japan and financially self-sufficient; the island was considered the second most developed region in Asia after Japan. After WWII, in 1945, control of Taiwan was returned to the Nationalist China government. In 1949, Chiang Kai-Shek lost the civil war and exile in Taiwan where he established a Nationalist (Kuomintang) regime. In the following decades, Taiwan has developed politically and financially. Today, with economic and social stability, Taiwan is a major international trading power with a trade surplus and a foreign reserves among the world's largest.



The mixed population of indigenous people, Taiwanese and mainland Chinese had created a rich mosaic of cultural and social texture. Taipei is the capital city with bustling shopping area, vibrant night markets, wide varieties of restaurants and the renown National Palace Museum with more than 650,000 pieces of Chinese artifacts covering "every time period from Neolithic to the present". Besides metropolis, the island also has charming country sides and beautiful natural sceneries.



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## Tour Itinerary:

**Day 01:** U.S.-Taipei  
Depart U.S. for Taipei.

**Day 02:** Taipei  
Arrive Taipei, transfer to your hotel.  
Accommodation: Gala Hotel.

**Day 03:** Taipei  
An afternoon Taipei city tour will take you to visit the renown National Palace Museum; Chiang Kai-Sek Memorial Hall; Lungshan Temple; Martyr's Shrine; Taipei 101 Observatory and the bustling Shiling Night Market. (B)

**Day 04:** Taipei-Sun Moon Lake  
Depart Taipei and travel south to the scenic Sun Moon Lake which located at 740 meters above sea level between the central mountain range and the western plain. En-route, visit Wenwu Temple, Peacock Garden, Tehua Village, Tzen Pagoda and Holy Monk Shrink. (B)  
Accommodation: Richforest Hotel

**Day 05:** Sun Moon Lake-Tainan-Kaohsiung  
Depart Sun Moon Lake and travel south to the city of Tainan, visiting Koxinga Shrine; Chihkan Lou and Fort of Anping built by the Dutch in the early 17th century. Continue on to the city of Kaohsiung, visiting the Spring & Autumn Pavilions, Lio Ho Night Market and the romantic scene of Love River. (B)  
Accommodation: Holiday Garden Hotel.

**Day 06:** Kaohsiung-Kenting-Taitung  
Travel east to Taitung via the Kenting National Park, the island's sanctuary of its wildlife and ecology with rich landscapes and a variety of vegetation. (B)  
Accommodation: Naruwan Hotel.

**Day 07:** Taitung-Hualien  
Depart Taitung and travel north along the scenic east coast to the beautiful Hualien, the city of marble. (B)  
Accommodation: China Trust Hotel.

**Day 08:** Hualien-Taroko Gorge-Taipei  
Return to Taipei via the Taroko Gorge National Park with its amazing natural rock and marble formations; visiting the Eternal Spring Shrine, Swallow Caves and Tunnel of Nine Turns. (B)  
Accommodation: Gala Hotel.

**Day 09:** Taipei-U.S.  
Transfer to airport for departure. (B)

Departure period (2009):	Tour Cost
May04-June04; August 24-September 30 December 04-13.	\$2,335
June 05-August 23; December 14-25	\$2,410
October 1-25; December 26-31	\$2,285
October 26-December 03	\$2,235
Single room supplement	\$338
Tour costs do not include taxes and fuel surcharges; and subject to change without notice.	

