



**Meet the most friendly people and
enjoy the local hospitality.**

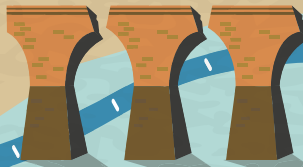
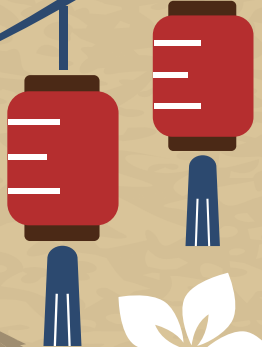




A paradise for food lovers



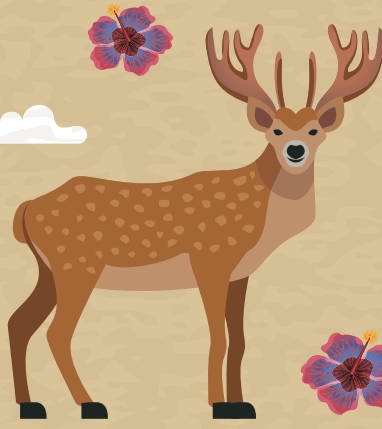
TAÍPEÍ



YÍLAN



TAÍCHUNG



Fall in love with the beauty of nature and architecture in Taiwan.



Map of Taiwan

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Wulai
烏來



Danshui
淡水



Yangmingshan National Park
陽明山國家公園



Yehliu
野柳



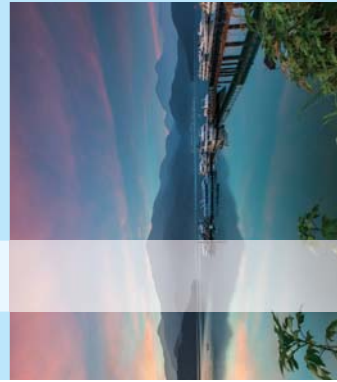
Jiufen
九份



Gaomei Wetlands
高美濕地



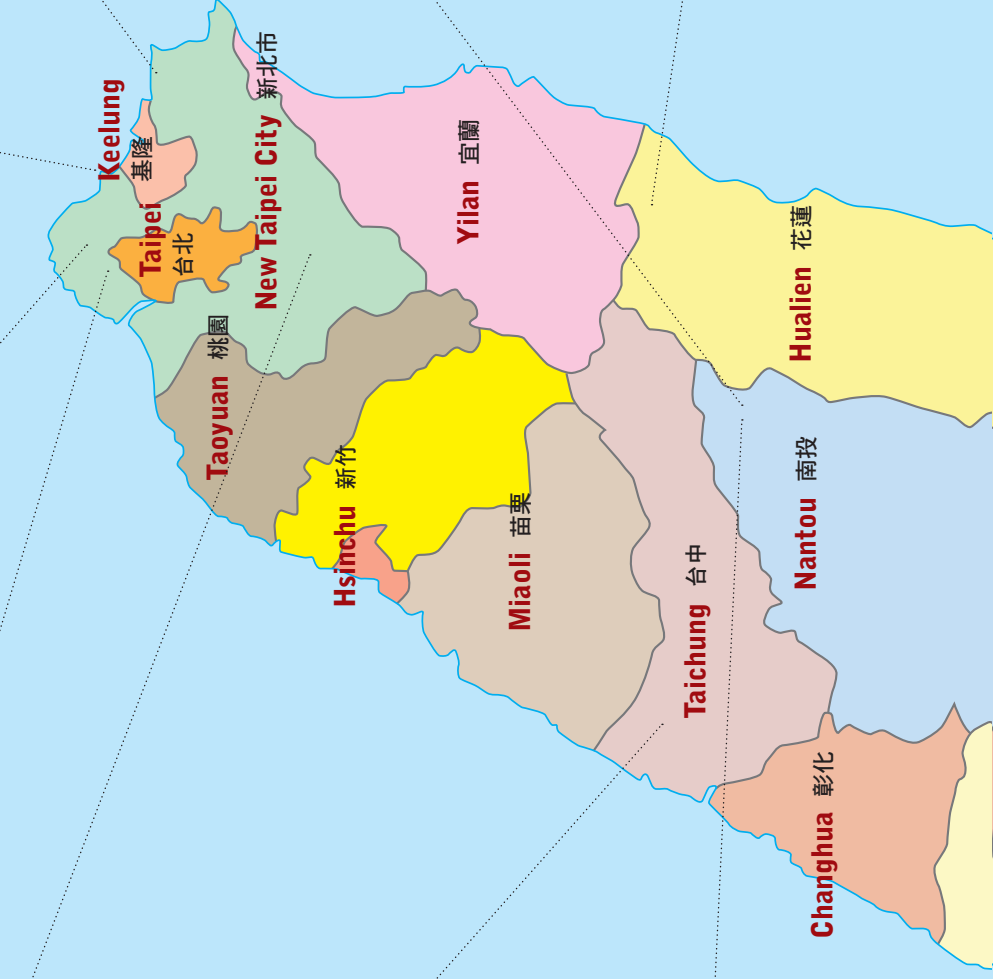
Hehuanshan
合歡山



Sun Moon Lake
日月潭



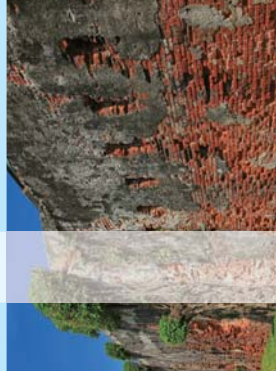
Taroko National Park
太魯閣國家公園



The Penghu Islands 澎湖



Alishan National Scenic Area 阿里山國家風景區



Fort Anping 安平古堡



Lotus Lake 蓮池潭

Yunlin 雲林

Chiayi 嘉義

Tainan 台南

Kaohsiung 高雄

Pingtung 屏東

Taitung 台東

Green Island 綠島

Orchid Island 蘭嶼



Yushan National Park 玉山國家公園



Huatung Valley 花東縱谷



↓ Kenting National Park 墾丁國家公園



Unit 01 | Geography



Word Bank

separate v.
measure v.
roughly adv.
make up (of)

range n.
in length
landslide n.
poisonous a.
glimpse n.

Taiwan Blue Magpie
encounter v.
active a.
extinct a.
dormant a.


soak v.
factory n.
plenty of
concentrate v.
certain a.

Reading Passage 01


Taiwan is an island in East Asia that lies between the Philippines and Japan. It is very close to mainland China. Taiwan and China are **separated** by the Taiwan Strait, which is only 220 kilometers at its widest point and 130 kilometers at its narrowest point. Taiwan **measures** about 36,000 square kilometers, which is **roughly** the same size as the Netherlands. It is **made up of** one main island and several other smaller islands, such as the Penghu Islands, Orchid Island, and Green Island. When people say “Taiwan,” they usually mean all of these islands put together. The main island is also known as Formosa. When Portuguese sailors first discovered the island nearly five hundred years ago, they called it “Ilha Formosa,” which means “beautiful island.”



The island is very mountainous. Yushan (Mount Jade) is 3,952 meters tall, making it the highest mountain in Northeast Asia. The middle part of the island is covered by the Central Mountain **Range**. This massive range of mountains is 340 kilometers **in length**. Taiwan’s mountain roads have lots of beautiful scenery. However, drivers must be careful on these roads as there are sometimes **landslides**.




Taiwan's **Yushan** (Mount Jade) is the highest mountain in Northeast Asia.



Beautiful Sun Moon Lake

↓ Taiwan is home to many bird species.

different kinds of snakes. Some of them are very **poisonous**. But, visitors are unlikely to see them. It is also very hard to catch a **glimpse** of Taiwan's black bears. Visitors may have a better chance of seeing birds. There are many bird species which are only found in Taiwan. The **Taiwan Blue Magpie**, for example, can now be seen in some scenic spots. It has a very long tail. Some can be about 65 centimeters in length. Because they aren't afraid of people, visitors may have a chance to **encounter** these beautiful birds.



Many millions of years ago, Taiwan was home to **active** volcanoes. Today, they are either **extinct** or **dormant**. But, that doesn't mean that they can't provide hot water for Taiwan's hot springs! Most of Taiwan's hot springs are found in the mountains. Taiwanese people like to **soak** in hot spring waters because they are good for your health.



↑ Mt. Qixing 七星山 in Yangmingshan National Park is an extinct volcano.

Quiz

1. Where is Taiwan?
2. How big is it?
3. Name the highest mountain in Taiwan.
4. What animals are very poisonous? Are people likely to see them?
5. Why do Taiwanese people go to hot springs?



Taiwan was once called **Formosa**, which means "beautiful" in Portuguese.

Ethan So, tell me about Taiwan.

Laura It's an island in East Asia that is off the coast of mainland China.

Ethan How big is it?

Laura It measures 36,000 square kilometers. It's roughly the same size as the Netherlands.

Ethan Why's it called Formosa?

Laura Portuguese sailors called it that when they discovered it nearly 500 years ago. It means beautiful in Portuguese.

Ethan Is it still beautiful? I heard there are lots of **factories** there now.

Laura The mountains are still beautiful, and there are still **plenty of** nice places on the plains as well. Most of the factories are **concentrated in certain** areas. Have you been to Yangmingshan National Park?

Ethan I've been trying to find the time. I heard it's beautiful.

Laura It is. We're lucky that it's so close to Taipei.

Ethan Tell me a little about what it's like.

Laura Well, it's a place where you can be close to nature, so it's great for walking around. There are lots of paths and several tourist centers.

Ethan I hear you can also visit some hot springs where the water is always warm.

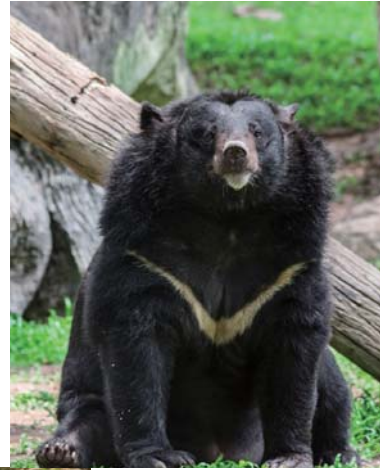
Laura Yes, millions of years ago this area was full of volcanoes. They are not so active now, but they can still give us hot water. Just remember to try and go during the week.

Ethan And I imagine it's best to go early. Those springs get pretty crowded, eh?

Laura Yes. The hot springs in Yangmingshan attract a lot of visitors.



← Pointed-Scaled Pit Viper
龜殼花



↑ Formosan Black Bear
台灣黑熊

↓ Formosan Rock Macaque
台灣獼猴



← Formosan Sika Deer
台灣梅花鹿

→ Birdwing Butterfly
珠光黃裳鳳蝶



Animals

Endemic to Taiwan



Taiwan Blue Magpie
台灣藍鵲

Swinhoe's Pheasant
台灣藍腹鷓



Vivid Niltava
棕腹藍仙鶺



© COSMOS CULTURE LTD Mikado Pheasant
帝雉

→ Formosan Landlocked Salmon
櫻花鉤吻鮭



01 | Listening  03

Listen to the sentences describing something in Taiwan. Check the thing that you think is being referred to each time.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="radio"/> Central Mountain Range | <input type="radio"/> Taiwan Blue Magpie |
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Hot springs | <input type="radio"/> Volcanoes |
| 3. <input type="radio"/> Snakes | <input type="radio"/> Black bears |
| 4. <input type="radio"/> The Penghu Islands | <input type="radio"/> Yangmingshan National Park |

02 | Reading

Choose the correct answer.

- _____ 1. What does the Portuguese phrase “Ilha Formosa” mean?
(a) Beautiful island. (b) Lonely mountain. (c) Dangerous animal. (d) Blue sea.
- _____ 2. Which country is roughly the same size as Taiwan?
(a) China. (b) India. (c) England. (d) The Netherlands.
- _____ 3. Which of the following is NOT true about Taiwan?
(a) Taiwan is made up of one big island and several other small islands.
(b) Taiwan is very mountainous.
(c) Taiwan has many volcanoes which are still active.
(d) Many interesting plants and animals can be seen in Taiwan.
- _____ 4. What separates Taiwan from China?
(a) The Central Mountain Range. (b) The Taiwan Strait.
(c) The Philippines. (d) Green Island.

03 | Writing

Unscramble the sentences.

1. the / Taiwan / China / Taiwan Strait / and / are / separated / by
Taiwan and China are separated by the Taiwan Strait.
2. Yushan / the / mountain / Northeast Asia / is / in / highest

3. is / afraid / people / The / Blue / Taiwan / of / Magpie / not

4. to / springs / love / Visitors / in / Yangmingshan's / soak / hot



↑ The sunrise and famous sea of clouds at Alishan 阿里山日出雲海



↑ The summit of Yushan 玉山主峰



↑ Alishan National Scenic Area 阿里山國家風景區



↑ Hehuanshan (Mount Hehuan) 合歡山



↑ Sun Moon Lake 日月潭



↓ Gueishan Island 龜山島



↓ Yangmingshan National Park 陽明山國家公園

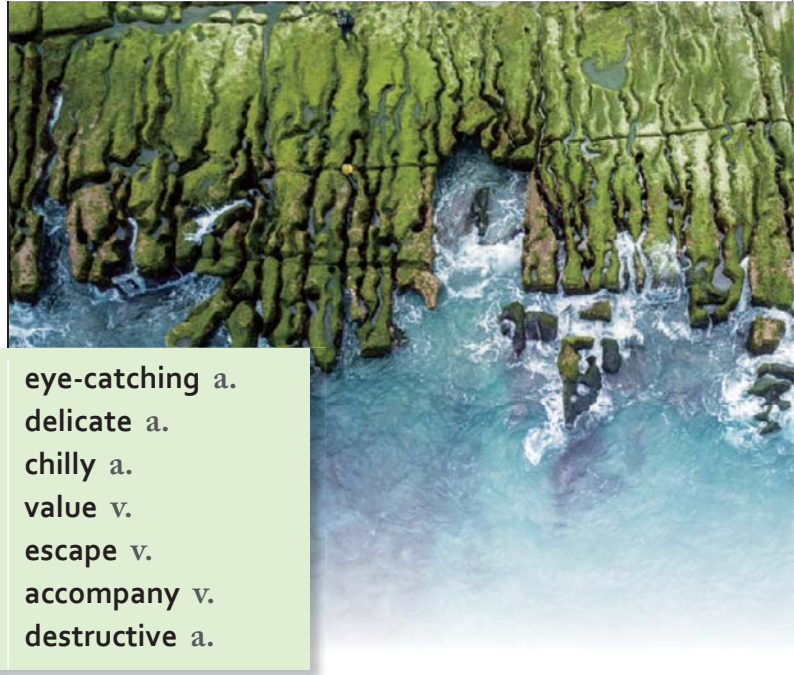


↓ Blue Cave (Hole) on the Penghu Islands 澎湖島上的藍洞



→ Heping Island 和平島

Unit 02 | Climate



Word Bank

Tropic of Cancer
tropical a.
subtropical a.
seldom adv.
humidity n.
a variety of

fierce a.
offshore a.
mild a.
blossom n.
crowded a.
spectacular a.

eye-catching a.
delicate a.
chilly a.
value v.
escape v.
accompany v.
destructive a.

Reading Passage



04

Taiwan's climate is hot and rainy, making it easy for plants to grow. Around 2,500 mm of rain falls on Taiwan every year. The **Tropic of Cancer** crosses central Taiwan, which makes Taiwan's climate half **tropical** and half **subtropical**.

It can be extremely hot in summer. The temperature **seldom** drops below 30 degrees Celsius and the **humidity** is high. It's a great time to enjoy the cool mountains and **a variety of** water activities. Visitors are suggested to wear hats and sunglasses and put on sunscreen as well.

From July to October is the typhoon season. Several typhoons pass by or hit Taiwan during this time of year. These storms can be **fierce** and cause great damage. Visitors must avoid coastal areas and **offshore** islands during a typhoon.

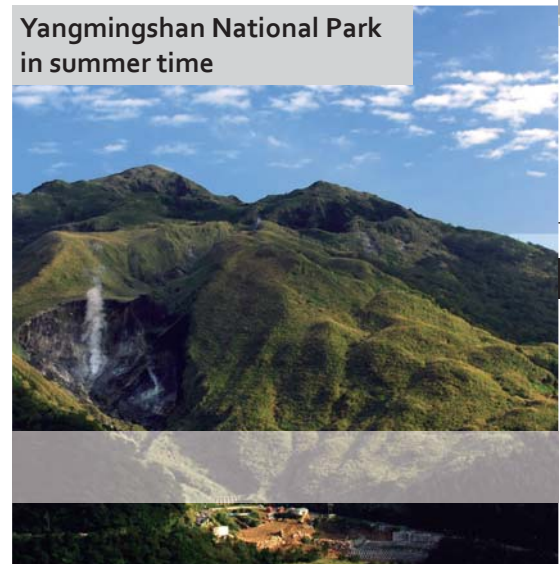
In spring, the weather tends to be **mild** and pleasant. It's the perfect time to visit scenic spots outside the cities and enjoy a wide variety of flower **blossoms**.

The Plum Rain Season comes in mid-May and lasts until June. During this time, it is quite likely that you will be caught in a shower. An umbrella is a must for tourists during the rainy season.

In autumn, it is cool and the humidity starts to drop. It is as pleasant in autumn as in spring.



Yangmingshan National Park
in summer time



Although Taiwan is very hot, the north can get quite cold during the winter. It can get even colder at the summits of Taiwan's high mountains. Up there, the temperature can drop to as low as -10 degrees Celsius. There is even snow on the ground. People travel to the mountains, such as **Mount Hehuan** 合歡山, just to see the snow. So, don't forget to pack some warm clothes if you're visiting Taiwan at this time of year.

Taiwan has lots of things to see. There are beautiful temples and **crowded** night markets in almost every city. Just outside the cities is the countryside, which is often **spectacular**, with beautiful mountains, rivers, and forests. There are also several flower seasons in Taiwan. Each of them has its own unique features and is very **eye-catching**. Every year, during the cherry blossom season, families go to places like **Alishan** 阿里山, **Yangmingshan** 陽明山, and **Wulai** 烏來 to see these **delicate** pink blossoms.

Cherry blossoms
on Yangmingshan

Typhoons may



↑ Typhoons may bring about mudflows.
Ta-Shiang Village After Typhoon Torochi, 2001
(cc by 王志豪)



↑ Typhoons may flood cities.



↑ Typhoons may blow down trees and destroy houses.

□□i□

1. What kind of climate does Taiwan have?
2. What disasters can typhoons bring about?
3. When is the Plum Rain Season?

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Mount Hehuan



Ethan What about the weather? It's pretty hot, right?

Laura Most of the time, but not always. In the north, winters are often **chilly** and occasionally very cold.

Ethan Really? What do people do to heat their homes?

Laura There isn't much central heating in Taiwan because it's not cold for very long. People usually use small electric heaters and put on more layers of clothing.

Ethan What about in the mountains? How cold is the winter up there?

Laura It can be surprisingly cold in the mountains during winter. A friend of mine who went camping there one year said it dropped to -10 degrees Celsius.

Ethan I suppose Taiwanese people **value** the mountains. They give them a great chance to go out and enjoy nature.

Laura Yes, mountain areas are becoming more and more important. People go there to **escape** the heat of summer and view the beautiful flowers and plants.

Ethan So, in summer, it's really hot!

Laura Definitely. There are also typhoons during the summer.

Ethan Is it very stormy during a typhoon?

Laura Yes, a typhoon is usually **accompanied** by strong winds and heavy rain, which can be very **destructive**.



← Miaoli Tung Flower Season
苗栗桐花季

↑ Alishan Cherry Blossom Festival
阿里山櫻花季

Seasonal Festivals



↑ Wulai Cherry Blossom Festival
烏來櫻花季

↑ Yangmingshan Flower Festival
陽明山花季

↓ Festival of Calla Lily 竹子湖海芋季

↓ Baihe Lotus Festival 白河蓮花季



01 | Listening  06

Listen to the statements and mark the information you get from each one.

1. Taiwan lies in the Pacific Ocean.
 The Tropic of Cancer runs through Taiwan.
2. The summers in Taiwan are hot and humid.
 There can be snow on Mount Hehuan during winter.
3. Typhoon season runs from July to October.
 It rains a lot during the Plum Rain Season.
4. If you visit Taiwan in winter, pack warm clothes.
 Don't visit the outlying islands during a typhoon.

02 | Reading

Match the two halves of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the winter, people _____ 2. In summer, people _____ 3. Typhoons often bring _____ 4. The north of Taiwan _____ 5. It's likely you'll get caught in a shower _____ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) strong winds and heavy rain. (b) can be surprisingly cold in winter. (c) heat their homes with small electric heaters. (d) during the Plum Rain Season. (e) go to the mountains to escape the heat. |
|---|---|

03 | Writing

Use the following words to fill in the blanks.

destructive offshore blossoms crowded mild

1. Each spring, thousands of people flock to the mountains to see the beautiful pink cherry _____.
2. Taiwan's _____ islands are a great place to do a variety of water sports such as diving and surfing.
3. The best time to visit Taiwan is during the spring or autumn when the weather is pleasant and _____.
4. The _____ winds of a typhoon can completely destroy houses and cause major problems like landslides.
5. Night markets attract visitors with freshly cooked food and a fun atmosphere; _____.

