


# Fun Travel

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# Taiwan

## The Best Tour Guide in English

 *A comprehensive guide to introducing Taiwan.  
Let's discover Taiwan's beauty in English!*



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the language from an early age, and it can also be seen on official signs throughout Taiwan.

4 **Widespread**<sup>5</sup> immigration has also affected Taiwanese religious practices. But whereas languages have generally remained separate, different religions have **blended**<sup>6</sup> together. The majority of people now follow a faith that is a mix of Buddhism, Taoism, and traditional folk beliefs. Owing to all of these religious influences, Taiwan is now home to hundreds of different gods that are worshipped in thousands of temples around the island. People worship these gods and their ancestors by offering incense, paper money, which is also called joss paper, and food. Christianity as well as Islam also have significant faith **communities**<sup>7</sup> in Taiwan.



worshipper praying to God at temple

5 Looking around Taiwan, visitors will quickly notice that there's a big difference between Taiwan's urban and rural areas. Towns and cities are usually highly developed with shops and restaurants lining the streets. On the **outskirts**<sup>8</sup> of built-up areas, you will find factories, industrial zones, and technology parks. Taiwan's economy has **come a long way**<sup>9</sup> in the last 60 to 70 years. In the early 20th century, it was dominated by agriculture, but it developed quickly after the 1950s. During the 1980s, Taiwan was one of the world's largest manufacturers and it has since developed into a center for hi-tech innovation. The service industry, financial sector, and other fields have also witnessed significant development.

6 Away from the bright lights and industry of the towns and cities, Taiwan's natural scenery is **breathtaking**<sup>10</sup>. Both local people and tourists from around the world enjoy visiting the country's holiday destinations. The Central Mountain Range offers great scenery and enjoyable hikes. Relaxation can be had at Sun Moon Lake or at one of Taiwan's many hot spring resorts. Taiwan also **boasts**<sup>11</sup> numerous national parks and natural reserves, offering rich **biodiversity**<sup>12</sup> and a variety of outdoor activities. And sandy beaches dot the northern, eastern, and southern coastlines.



Sun Moon Lake

7 Taiwan might be a small place, but it makes a big impact on anyone who learns about it or decides to **pay a visit**<sup>13</sup>.



# Unit 01 Landscape and Climate

## Vocabulary

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <b>located</b> [ˈləketɪd] <i>a.</i>              | 7 <b>in addition to</b>               |
| 2 <b>landscape</b> [ˈlænd, skeɪp] <i>n.</i>        | 8 <b>species</b> [ˈspiːʃɪz] <i>n.</i> |
| 3 <b>idyllic</b> [aɪˈdɪlɪk] <i>a.</i>              | 9 <b>mere</b> [mɪr] <i>a.</i>         |
| 4 <b>boundary</b> [ˈbɑːndrɪ] <i>n.</i>             | 10 <b>humid</b> [ˈhjuːmɪd] <i>a.</i>  |
| 5 <b>as a result</b>                               | 11 <b>urban</b> [ˈɜːbən] <i>a.</i>    |
| 6 <b>uninhabitable</b> [ˌʌnɪnˈhæbɪtəbəl] <i>a.</i> | 12 <b>rural</b> [ˈrʊərəl] <i>a.</i>   |

## Reading

Central Mountain Range

1 Taiwan is **located**<sup>1</sup> in East Asia. To its west is the Taiwan Strait, which separates the island from China, and the Pacific Ocean lies off its east coast. With a total area of only 35,801 km<sup>2</sup>, Taiwan is a small island. Despite its size, Taiwan is home to a variety of **landscapes**<sup>2</sup> including towering mountains, sun-kissed beaches, coral reefs, and **idyllic**<sup>3</sup> lakes. It's one of the most geographically varied countries in the world.

2 The surface of the earth is made up of several massive plates of land, called tectonic plates, and Taiwan sits at the **boundary**<sup>4</sup> of two of them. Millions of years ago, these plates began pushing against one another, causing the land to rise. **As a result**<sup>5</sup>, the center of Taiwan is covered by huge mountains.

3 Jade Mountain, or Yushan 玉山 as it's known in Chinese, is Taiwan's highest peak, measuring 3,952 meters in height. It's situated in Nantou County 南投縣



Yushan

in the center of the country, and like many of the island's mountains, it's surrounded by thick forests. Hikers climbing the mountain are able to enjoy amazing views.

4 Taiwan's tall mountains reach all the way to the sea along lengthy sections of the east coast, and there are even mountains close to the capital city of Taipei in the north. Western Taiwan is quite different, though, as it is mostly flat. Since the country's mountainous center is mostly **uninhabitable**<sup>6</sup>, many Taiwanese people live on the western plains. Much of the country's rice and wheat are grown there as well.



Kenting

5 Sandy beaches can be found at Fulong 福隆 in the north and around Kenting 墾丁 in the south. **In addition to**<sup>7</sup> its beaches, Kenting is also famous for its coral reefs, which contain hundreds of **species**<sup>8</sup> of fish.

6 Taiwan is actually made up of a number of islands. On top of the main island, which is called Taiwan, there's also Green Island 綠島 and Orchid Island 蘭嶼 in the Pacific Ocean as well as a few island groups in the Taiwan Strait. The Matsu Islands 馬祖列島 lie

northwest of Taiwan and are only about 20 km from the Chinese coast. Further south, Kinmen 金門 is a **mere**<sup>9</sup> 2 km from China. The Penghu Islands 澎湖群島 to the southeast of Kinmen are much closer to Taiwan.

Orchid Island



Green Island





7 Although the weather in Taiwan is mostly warm and **humid**<sup>10</sup>, the winters can get quite damp and cold, especially in the north. During winter in Taipei, the temperature typically ranges from 10°C to 20°C. High up in the central mountains, it often snows between December and February. In other parts of the country, the difference between summer and winter is less obvious. In fact, Taiwan's most southerly region is called Hengchun 恆春, which means "constant spring" in Chinese.

8 Most of Taiwan's rain falls in the summer months, and July through September is the typhoon season. These extreme weather systems bring strong winds and heavy rain, and they can cause a lot of damage in both **urban**<sup>11</sup> and **rural**<sup>12</sup> areas.

Hengchun



Penghu Islands



Matsu Islands



Kinmen





# Reading Comprehension

## Choose the correct answer based on the Reading.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Based on the article, which of the following geographical features does Taiwan have?

  - (A) Volcanoes.
  - (B) Very long rivers.
  - (C) Deserts.
  - (D) Beautiful lakes.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is said about Taiwan's mountains?

  - (A) They aren't all very tall.
  - (B) Many are surrounded by trees.
  - (C) They're mostly in the south.
  - (D) Lots of rice is grown there.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "Kenting is also famous for its coral reefs, which contain hundreds of **species** of fish. What is a less scientific word for "species"?"

  - (A) Shapes.      (B) Rules.      (C) Movements.      (D) Types.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What is the main idea of the seventh paragraph?

  - (A) The weather in Taiwan gets warmer the further south you go.
  - (B) In the winter there's often snow on the high mountains.
  - (C) The temperature in Taipei sometimes falls below 15°C.
  - (D) The weather in Taiwan can be very humid.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What is implied about the weather in Hengchun?

  - (A) The weather is very good in springtime.
  - (B) The weather is very bad in wintertime.
  - (C) The weather is very good all through the year.
  - (D) The weather changes a lot throughout the year.

## Vocabulary

- 1 **gorge** [gɔːdʒ] *n.*
- 2 **valley** [ˈvæli] *n.*
- 3 **cliff** [klɪf] *n.*
- 4 **ferry** [ˈfəri] *n.*
- 5 **saltwater** [ˈsɒlt,wɔːtə] *a.*
- 6 **fantastic** [fænˈtæstɪk] *a.*
- 7 **blossom** [ˈblɒsəm] *n.*



Taroko Gorge

## Dialogues

### 1 Taking a Trip in Taiwan

**I** Ivy   **T** Tom

**I** I'm thinking about taking a trip around Taiwan. Where do you think I should go?

**T** It depends on what kinds of things you want to see and do.

**I** Hmm, I suppose I'd like to go for a good hike and then go somewhere else to relax.

**T** Well, there are lots of big mountains in Taiwan like Alishan 阿里山, Yushan, and Hehuanshan 合歡山, but my favorite place to go hiking is Taroko Gorge<sup>1</sup> 太魯閣峽谷.

**I** I haven't heard of it. What is it like?

**T** It's a huge gorge in Hualien County 花蓮縣. If you go there, you'll travel through a narrow **valley**<sup>2</sup> with tall, rocky **cliffs**<sup>3</sup> rising up on either side of you.

**I** Sounds great. So where can I go to relax?

**T** Why not take a **ferry**<sup>4</sup> from Taitung 台東 out to Green Island? It has some beaches, and there's also a rare **saltwater**<sup>5</sup> hot spring.

**I** **Fantastic**<sup>6</sup>! I think I know where to go on my trip. Thanks, Tom.



Green Island