

Part 1 Taiwan – The Big Picture

台灣：放眼如畫

Vocabulary

- 1 **diverse** [daɪˈvɜːs] *a.* 不同的；多樣的
- 2 **fascinating** [ˈfæsɪn,etɪŋ] *a.* 迷人的；極好的
- 3 **a wide range of** 各式各樣的
- 4 **be home to** 是……的棲息地／產地
- 5 **widespread** [ˈwaɪdˈsprɛd] *a.* 分布廣的
- 6 **blend** [blend] *v.* 混和；交融
- 7 **community** [kəˈmjʊnəti] *n.* 社群
- 8 **outskirts** [ˈaʊt,skɜːts] *n.* (複數) 郊外；郊區
- 9 **come a long way** 取得很大的進展
- 10 **brehtaking** [ˈbreθ,teɪŋ]
a. 驚人的；令人屏息的
- 11 **boast** [boɪst] *v.* 擁有；以擁有……自豪
- 12 **biodiversity** [baɪo,daɪˈvɜːsəti] *n.* 生物多樣性
- 13 **pay a visit** 參觀；拜訪



1 Taiwan might be a small country, but it is a **diverse**¹ land with a **fascinating**² history, beautiful scenery, **a wide range of**³ cultures, and a strong economy. Visitors to the country might be surprised by just how much there is to see, do, and experience.

2 The history books generally say that Taiwan was discovered in 1544 by Portuguese sailors, but people have actually been making their way here for tens of thousands of years. As a result, there are many different cultures and ethnic groups on the island. In addition to various Chinese ethnic groups, Taiwan **is home to**⁴ a large number of indigenous tribes. More recent immigration has brought people from Southeast Asia and Western nations, and they have also had an impact on everyday life in the country.

3 Since Taiwan is made up of so many different ethnic groups, a lot of languages are spoken here. In addition to the official language of Mandarin Chinese, there are indigenous languages, Hakka, and Taiwanese, which is spoken by much of the population. Recent governments have also worked hard to promote English. Students have to learn



Taiwan indigenous people
台灣原住民

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

4 **Widespread**⁵ immigration has also affected Taiwanese religious practices. But whereas languages have generally remained separate, different religions have **blended**⁶ 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**⁷ in Taiwan.



worshipper praying to God at temple 信徒於廟裡拜神

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**⁸ of built-up areas, you will find factories, industrial zones, and technology parks. Taiwan's economy has **come a long way**⁹ 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**¹⁰. 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**¹¹ numerous national parks and natural reserves, offering rich **biodiversity**¹² and a variety of outdoor activities. And sandy beaches dot the northern, eastern, and southern coastlines.



Sun Moon Lake 日月潭

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**¹³.

Unit 01 Landscape and Climate

景觀與氣候

Vocabulary

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 located [ˈləʊkətɪd] <i>a.</i> 坐落的；位於的 | 7 in addition to 除了……之外 |
| 2 landscape [ˈlænd,ʃeɪp] <i>n.</i> (陸上) 風景；景色 | 8 species [ˈspiːʃɪz] <i>n.</i> 品種；種類 |
| 3 idyllic [aɪˈdɪlɪk] <i>a.</i> 田園詩的 | 9 mere [mɪr] <i>a.</i> 僅僅的；只不過的 |
| 4 boundary [ˈbaʊndrɪ] <i>n.</i> 邊界；分界線 | 10 humid [ˈhjuːmɪd] <i>a.</i> 潮濕的 |
| 5 as a result 因此 | 11 urban [ˈɜːbən] <i>a.</i> 都市的 |
| 6 uninhabitable [ˌʌnɪnˈhæbɪtəbəl] <i>a.</i> 不適合居住的 | 12 rural [ˈrʊərəl] <i>a.</i> 鄉村的 |

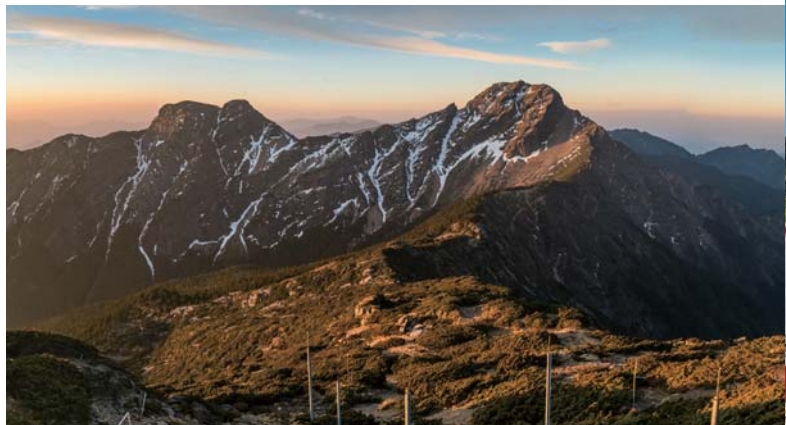
Reading

Central Mountain Range 中央山脈

1 Taiwan is **located**¹ 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 km², Taiwan is a small island. Despite its size, Taiwan is home to a variety of **landscapes**² including towering mountains, sun-kissed beaches, coral reefs, and **idyllic**³ 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**⁴ of two of them. Millions of years ago, these plates began pushing against one another, causing the land to rise. **As a result**⁵, the center of Taiwan is covered by huge mountains.

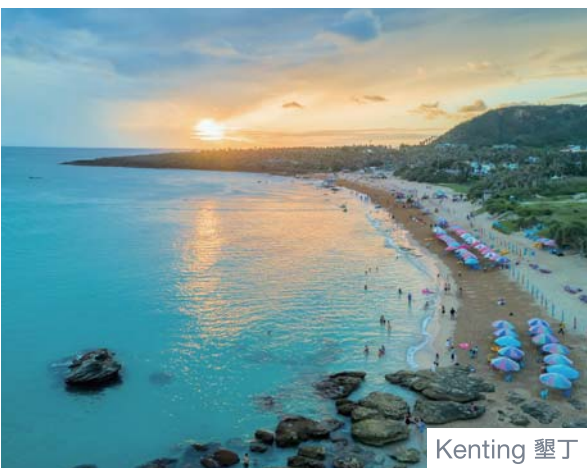
3 Jade Mountain, or Yushan 玉山 as it's known in Chinese, is Taiwan's highest peak, measuring 3,952 meters in height. It's situated in Nantou County 南投縣



Yushan 玉山

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**⁶, many Taiwanese people live on the western plains. Much of the country's rice and wheat are grown there as well.



Kenting 墾丁

5 Sandy beaches can be found at Fulong 福隆 in the north and around Kenting 墾丁 in the south. **In addition to**⁷ its beaches, Kenting is also famous for its coral reefs, which contain hundreds of **species**⁸ 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**⁹ 2 km from China. The Penghu Islands 澎湖群島 to the southeast of Kinmen are much closer to Taiwan.

Orchid Island 蘭嶼



Green Island 綠島



7 Although the weather in Taiwan is mostly warm and **humid**¹⁰, 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**¹¹ and **rural**¹² areas.

Hengchun 恆春



Penghu Islands 澎湖群島



Matsu Islands 馬祖列島



Kinmen 金門



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** [gɔːrdʒ] *n.* 峽谷
- 2 **valley** [ˈvæli] *n.* 山谷；溪谷
- 3 **cliff** [klɪf] *n.* 懸崖；峭壁
- 4 **ferry** [ˈferi] *n.* 渡輪
- 5 **saltwater** [ˈsɒlt,wɔːtə] *a.* 鹽水的
- 6 **fantastic** [fænˈtæstɪk] *a.* 極好的
- 7 **blossom** [ˈblɒsəm] *n.* 花



Taroko Gorge 太魯閣峽谷

Dialogues

1 Taking a Trip in Taiwan

在台灣旅遊

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 Gorge¹ 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**² with tall, rocky **cliffs**³ rising up on either side of you.

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

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

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

Green Island 綠島



2 Talking About When to Visit Taiwan

討論造訪台灣的最佳時機

S Steven **L** Lisa

S Hi, Lisa. After hearing you talk about Taiwan so much, I think I'd like to go there on holiday.

L Great, I think you'll love it. When are you going to go?

S I don't really know. When do you think would be the best time of year?

L That's a hard question to answer. Summer is nice and hot, but it's often humid and it can rain a lot, too.

S There are typhoons in the summer as well, right?

L Yeah, Taiwan usually experiences a few typhoons every year.

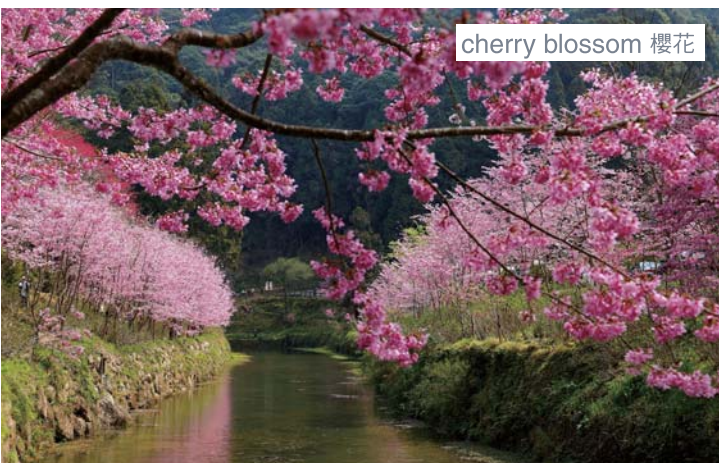
S OK, what about winter?

L It's nice in the south during winter, but it gets quite cold in the northern areas and in the mountains.

S That doesn't sound good. What about spring?

L Spring might be perfect. It's not too hot or cold, there's no chance of a typhoon, and you might even get to see the cherry **blossoms**⁷. Autumn is also a great time to visit as the weather is pleasant.

S Thank you. I think spring it is!



cherry blossom 櫻花



weather during typhoon season 颱風季的天氣

Review Practice

A Dictation

Listen and write down the words you hear.

1. There are many different _____ of fish around the beaches in Kenting.
2. Yushan is _____ in Nantou County.
3. The air gets _____ in the summer in Taiwan, so it's important to stay hydrated.
4. I prefer living in a small town rather than a big _____ area.
5. We took a _____ ride to the nearby island for our vacation.

B Vocabulary

Match the words and phrases with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. rural | (A) Water that contains a high concentration of salt. |
| _____ 2. in addition to | (B) Related to the countryside or areas that are not in cities. |
| _____ 3. fantastic | (C) A line or limit that separates one area from another. |
| _____ 4. saltwater | (D) Another way of saying "also" or "besides." |
| _____ 5. boundary | (E) Extremely good or impressive; wonderful. |

C Discussion

Answer the questions below.

1. Please introduce Taroko Gorge.
2. Have you ever been to Taroko Gorge? Share your experience.
If not, share other natural attractions you've been to.

Discussion example answers

請至官網搜尋本書下載 Discussion 參考答案 PDF，
或至網址：<https://icosmos.pse.is/5hxyq7>

Explore Some More

Other Popular Natural Attractions 其他熱門自然景點

Qingshui Cliff 清水斷崖

Qingshui Cliff is on Taiwan's east coast. It is a stunning natural attraction with sheer cliffs rising over 1,000 meters from the Pacific Ocean. Its rocky beauty, rich greenery, and rough waves draw visitors for breathtaking coastal views.



Alishan 阿里山

Alishan is Taiwan's most popular mountain resort area. People go there to ride the famous Alishan mountain train, and to see forests of ancient trees, cloud and mist formations, and beautiful sunsets and sunrises.



Sun Moon Lake 日月潭

Sun Moon Lake is located in central Taiwan. It is renowned for its natural beauty and cultural significance. Its name derives from the lake's unique shape, resembling both a sun and a crescent moon.

Distinctive Natural Disasters 特殊天災



Typhoons 颱風

Taiwan faces typhoons, powerful tropical storms, mainly in the summer and early autumn. They bring heavy rain, strong winds, and can disrupt daily life, but Taiwan is well-prepared with warning systems and disaster response plans.



Earthquakes 地震

Taiwan often has earthquakes. They happen because of the island's location on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Taiwan has plans to deal with earthquakes to reduce the damage of them.