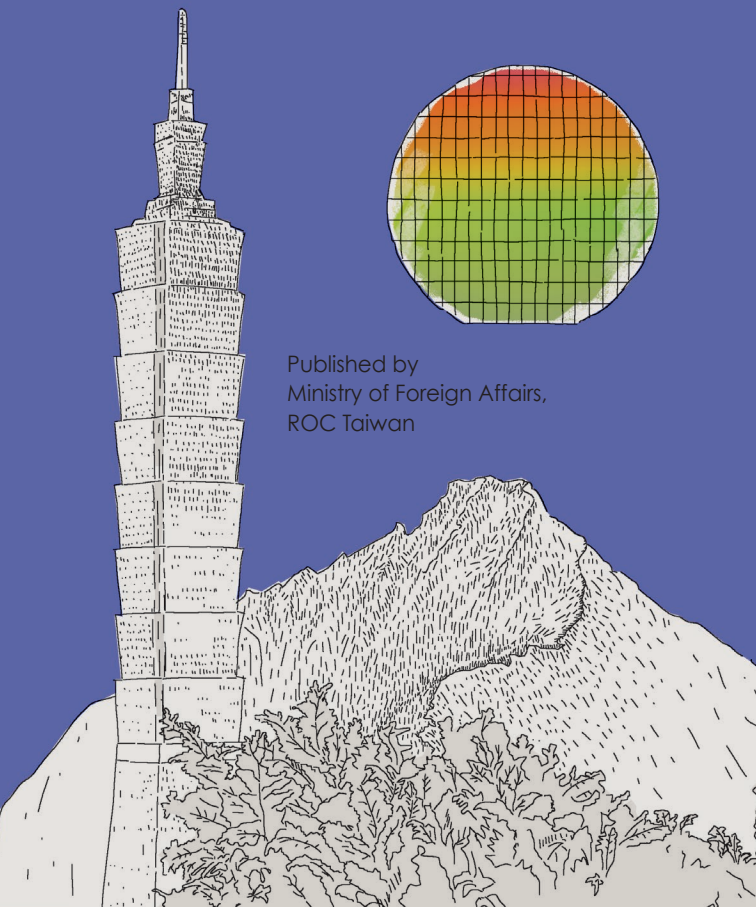


2025-2026

TAIWAN at a Glance



Published by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
ROC Taiwan



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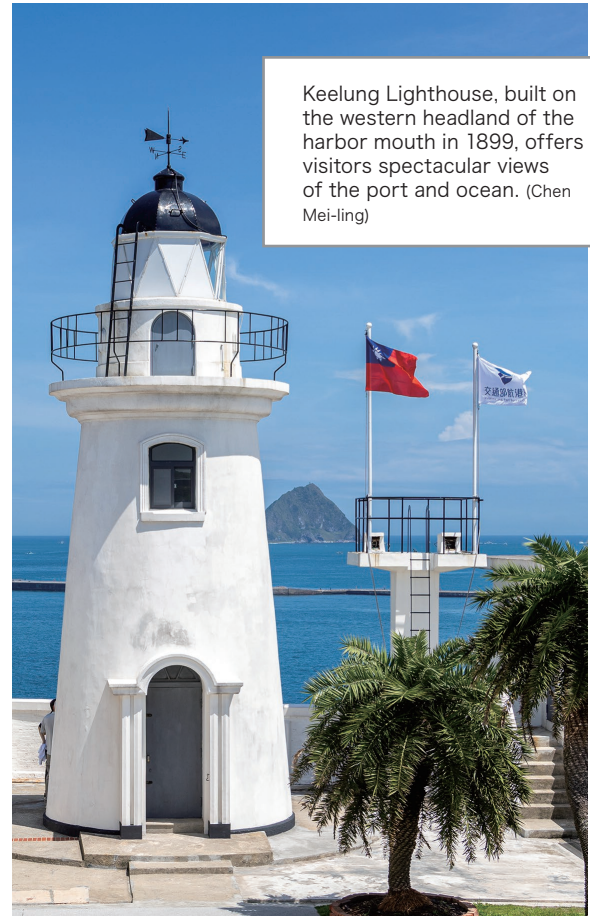
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Snapshot

Official name	ROC Taiwan
National Flag	
National Flower	Plum blossom
Area (Taiwan and outlying islands)	36,197 square kilometers
Population	23.4 million (Dec 2024)
Ethnicities	Over 94.8 percent Han people; 2.6 percent Indigenous Austronesian peoples; 2.6 percent new immigrants, primarily from China and Southeast Asia
Government	Multiparty democracy
President	Lai Ching-te
Capital	Taipei City
Special municipalities	Taipei, New Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung cities
National currency	New Taiwan dollar (NT\$ or TWD)
Languages	Mandarin (Chinese), Taiwan Taigi, Taiwan Hakka, Taiwan Indigenous languages
Major religions	Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, I-Kuan Tao



Keelung Lighthouse, built on the western headland of the harbor mouth in 1899, offers visitors spectacular views of the port and ocean. (Chen Mei-ling)

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Designed by Lin Chien-ju

Fact Focus

01

Yushan, also known as Jade Mountain, is the highest peak in East Asia.

Around 20 percent of the country's land area is protected.

Nature

Taiwan is situated in the West Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. Its jurisdiction extends to the archipelagos of Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, as well as numerous other islets. The total area of Taiwan and its outlying islands is around 36,197 square kilometers. At about the size of the Netherlands, but with a population of some 23 million, Taiwan is more populous than three-quarters of the world's nations.

Taiwan has an abundance of natural splendor. Mountain ranges with 268 peaks that reach over 3,000 meters and forested foothills occupy more than half of its area. The main island also features volcanic mountains, tablelands, coastal plains and basins. The Diaoyutai

A photograph of two Formosan sika deer in a forest. The deer are brown with white spots and are standing near a large tree trunk. One deer is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while the other is slightly behind it, looking down. They are surrounded by green foliage and dry leaves on the ground.

Taiwan boasts diverse flora and fauna, including the endemic Formosan sika deer. (Chin Hung-hao)

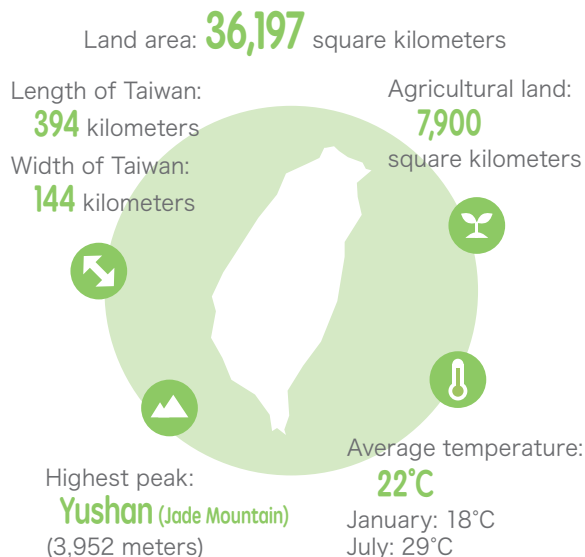
Archipelago, which lies northeast of Taiwan, and a number of islands in the South China Sea, including the Dongsha (Pratas), Nansha (Spratly), Xisha (Paracel) and Zhongsha (Macclesfield Bank) islands, are also part of the country's territory.

Sitting in the path of warm ocean currents off the east coast of continental Asia, Taiwan is uniquely blessed with climatic zones that range from tropical to temperate. This, combined with fertile soil and abundant rainfall, makes it an agricultural paradise

Yushan, the highest peak in Taiwan, is an iconic landmark and a national symbol. (Courtesy of National Yushan Park/ Photo by Tsui Tsu-hsi)



Snapshot



where virtually any kind of fruit or vegetable can be cultivated. It also makes the island a recreational wonderland. In the winter, a traveler could watch snow fall on the north peak of Hehuanshan in Nantou County and then travel a mere 200 kilometers to balmy Pingtung County to enjoy diving at coral reefs along the island's southern tip.

The smaller islands, meanwhile, have their own unique natural features, such as columnar basalt on the

Penghu Islands and marine hot springs along the shores of Green Island and Guishan Island.

Flora and Fauna

Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate climate and wide range of topographies endow the island with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Some 123 species of mammals, 758 species of birds, 117 species of reptiles, 43 species of amphibians, 404 species of butterflies and 2,975 species of fish are known to inhabit Taiwan. The island's plant life comprises 790 species of ferns, 5,718 species of angiosperms and 108 species of gymnosperms. To protect the ecosystems in which these plants and animals reside, the government has designated about 20 percent of the nation's land as protected areas, comprising nine national parks and one national nature park, 22 nature reserves for special ecosystems, six forest reserve areas, 21 wildlife refuges and 39 major wildlife habitats.

Among the most famous endemic species is the Formosan landlocked salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou formosanus*). The fish is believed to have become trapped in the frigid mountain waters of central Taiwan during the last ice age when ocean levels dropped dramatically, preventing its migration between fresh and salt water. To protect the endangered species, the Formosan Landlocked Salmon Refuge was established in the upper reaches of the Dajia River in Shei-Pa National Park.

National Parks



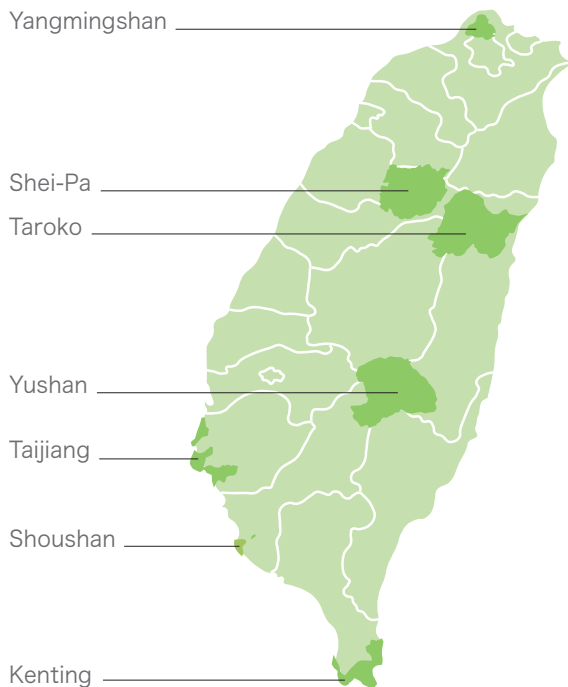
Kinmen



South Penghu



Dongsha Atoll



Fact Focus

There are 16 officially recognized Indigenous tribes in Taiwan.

The nation is home to over 600,000 new immigrants, most from China and Southeast Asia.

02

While Taiwan may be described as a predominantly Han Chinese society, with nearly 95 percent of the population claiming Han ancestry, its heritage is much more complex. The successive waves of Chinese immigrants that began arriving in the 17th century belonged to a variety of Han subgroups with mutually unintelligible languages and different customs. They settled alongside the Indigenous Austronesian tribes who had long inhabited Taiwan, each of which has

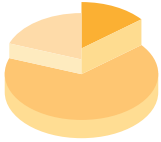
People

Hualien County-based Indigenous troupe Alefis performs a traditional dance at the 2024 National Day Celebration. (Chin Hung-hao)



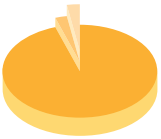
Snapshot

Population: **23,400,220** (Dec 2024)



Population structure:

- 0-17 years: 14.28%
- 18-64 years: 66.53%
- 65 and above: 19.18%



Ethnicity:

- Han Chinese: 94.8%
- Indigenous peoples: 2.6%
- New immigrants: 2.6%

Crude birth rate (2024): **5.76** (per 1,000 people)

Crude death rate (2024): **8.63** (per 1,000 people)

Life expectancy (2023): **80.23** years



Male:

76.94 years



Female:

83.74 years



its own distinct traditions and social structure. Recent years have seen an influx of new arrivals from China and Southeast Asia. Currently, the number of new immigrants is over 600,000.

There is growing appreciation in Taiwan for the cultural legacies of the 16 officially recognized Austronesian-speaking tribes, which constitute just over 2.6 percent of the population. Public and private organizations are working to revitalize their languages and cultures, as evidenced by the launch of the Taiwan Indigenous Television channel and the passage of the Indigenous Peoples Basic Act.

The convergence and interplay of currents of humanity have helped transform the country into an openhearted, forward-looking society incorporating diverse elements from around the world as part of an evolving shared identity.

Fact Focus

03

Dutch and Spanish settlers established bases in Taiwan in the early 17th century.

Around 1.2 million people relocated from China to Taiwan along with the Republic of China government in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

History

The Republic of China was founded in 1912 in China. At that time, Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule as a result of the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which the Qing dynasty ceded Taiwan to Japan. After Japan surrendered at the end of World War II, it handed Taiwan and Penghu to the ROC.

In 1949 the ROC government relocated to Taiwan while fighting a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party. Since then, the ROC has exercised jurisdiction over the main island of Taiwan and a number of outlying islands, leaving Taiwan and China each under the rule of a different government. The People's Republic of China has never exercised sovereignty over Taiwan or other islands administered by the ROC.



The imprint of a wrought iron wall anchor installed by the Dutch lingers on a wall at the 17th-century Fort Zeelandia in the southern city of Tainan.
(Chen Mei-ling)

Historical Timeline

While the following timeline focuses on Taiwan’s recorded history dating from about 400 years ago, the land has been home to Austronesian peoples for millennia.

1500s	Small numbers of Chinese merchants, fishers and pirates visit Taiwan during this period. It is commonly believed that European sailors passing Taiwan record the island’s name as Ilha Formosa.
1624	The Dutch East India Company establishes a base in southwestern Taiwan, initiating a transformation in Indigenous grain production practices and employing Chinese laborers to work on its rice and sugar plantations.
1626	Spanish adventurers establish bases in northern Taiwan but are ousted by the Dutch in 1642.
1662	Zheng Cheng-gong, also known as Koxinga, flees the Manchurian conquest of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), expels the Dutch from Taiwan and establishes a government in the south.
1683	Qing dynasty (1644-1912) forces take control of Taiwan’s western and northern coastal areas.
1885	Taiwan is declared a province of the Qing Empire.

1895	Following defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895), the Qing government signs the Treaty of Shimonoseki, ceding Taiwan to Japan.
1911–1912	Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing Empire and establish the Republic of China.
1943	During World War II, ROC leader Chiang Kai-shek meets with US President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Cairo. The resulting Cairo Declaration states that “... Formosa [Taiwan], and the Pescadores [the Penghu Islands], shall be restored to the ROC ...”
1945	The ROC, UK and US jointly issue the Potsdam Declaration, calling for Japan’s unconditional surrender and the implementation of the Cairo Declaration. After World War II, ROC government representatives accept the surrender of Japanese forces in Taiwan. Chief Executive of Taiwan Province Chen Yi sends a memorandum to the Japanese governor-general of Taiwan, stating, “I restore all legal territory, people, administration, political, economic, and cultural facilities and assets of Taiwan [including the Penghu Islands].”
1947	The ROC Constitution is promulgated Jan. 1 and is scheduled to take effect Dec. 25. In March and the following months, ROC troops dispatched from China suppress a large-scale uprising of Taiwan residents sparked by the February 28 Incident.

1948

As full-scale civil war rages in China between the Kuomintang-led ROC government and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are enacted, overriding the ROC Constitution and greatly expanding presidential powers. This begins the period of White Terror that lasts until 1991 when the temporary provisions are lifted.

1949

The ROC government relocates to Taiwan, followed by 1.2 million people from China. Oct. 25 sees the Battle of Kuningtou on Kinmen, in which the ROC armed forces defeat the CCP on the northwestern coast of the island.

Martial law is declared in Taiwan and remains in force until 1987.

1952

Following the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan signed by 48 Allied nations on behalf of the United Nations, the Treaty of Peace is signed between the ROC and Japan at Taipei Guest House, formally ending the state of war between the two parties. It is recognized that under Article 2 of the San Francisco treaty, Japan has renounced all right, title and claim to Formosa (Taiwan) and the Pescadores (Penghu), as well as the Spratly (Nansha) Islands and the Paracel (Xisha) Islands. All treaties, conventions and agreements concluded before Dec. 9, 1941, between China and Japan become null and void as a consequence of the war.



Kaohsiung Shipyard in the southern port city is completed in 1973. (Tang Ken-li)

1954

The ROC-US Mutual Defense Treaty is signed in Washington.

1958

Aug. 23 sees the start of an artillery duel between the ROC garrison on Kinmen and Chinese forces that lasts more than 40 days.

1966

The first Export Processing Zone is established in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City. The creation of such zones propels Taiwan's economic development and sets an example for other countries to follow.

1968

The nine-year compulsory education system is launched at a time when fewer than nine countries globally have compulsory education systems of this length or more.

1971 The United Nations General Assembly passes UN Resolution 2758 on Oct. 25, recognizing the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the only legitimate representative of China to the global body. The ROC withdraws from the UN.

1979 Democracy activists demonstrating in Kaohsiung are arrested and imprisoned following what is known as the Kaohsiung Incident, which eventually leads to the formation and development of the Democratic Progressive Party in 1986.

1987 Martial law, in effect since 1949, ends, and bans on the formation of new political parties and news publications are lifted. Democratization goes into high gear and cross-strait people-to-people exchanges begin.

1991 The Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are abolished. A complete reelection of all congressional representatives, including members of the Legislature and National Assembly, takes place from 1991 to 1992, giving the people of Taiwan full representation. From 1991 through 2005, the Constitution of the ROC Taiwan undergoes seven rounds of revision. Taiwan becomes a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

1992 Government-authorized representatives from across the Taiwan Strait meet for the first time in Hong Kong, and via subsequent communication and

negotiations, arrive at various joint acknowledgments and understandings.

1995 The National Health Insurance program begins. The February 28 Incident Disposition and Compensation Act goes into effect.

1996 The ROC holds its first-ever direct presidential and vice presidential elections, with the KMT's Lee Teng-hui and running mate Lien Chan garnering 54 percent of the vote.

2000 Chen Shui-bian and Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of the DPP are elected president and vice president, ending the KMT's more than 50-year rule and marking the first transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.

2002 Taiwan becomes a member of the World Trade Organization. Two national defense laws based on the principle of unifying military policymaking and command are officially enforced on March 1. New subordinates of the Ministry of National Defense are established and organized with regulations to carry out the task of nationalization of the armed forces.

2003 The Legislative Yuan passes the Referendum Act, providing a legal basis for citizens to vote directly on issues of local or national importance.

2004 The first national referendum is held in conjunction with the third direct presidential and vice presidential elections, in which Chen and Lu are reelected.

2005 The Legislative Yuan passes a constitutional amendment package, halving the number of seats from 225 to 113 and introducing the single-district, two-votes system for legislative elections.

2008 Ma Ying-jeou and Vincent C. Siew of the KMT win the election for president and vice president, marking the second transfer of executive power between political parties.

2009 Taiwan attends the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in a UN activity since its withdrawal in 1971.

2010 Taiwan inks the Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement with China to institutionalize economic and trade relations across the Taiwan Strait.

2011 Taiwan celebrates the centennial of the ROC.

2013 Taiwan signs an agreement on economic cooperation with New Zealand and an agreement on economic partnership with Singapore.

Taiwan attends the 38th session of the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly as the guest of the council's president.

2014 Mainland Affairs Council Minister Wang Yu-chi meets with Zhang Zhijun, director of China's Taiwan Affairs Council, in Nanjing in February, marking the first official contact between the heads of the respective government agencies responsible for cross-strait relations.

Sunflower Movement protesters occupy the Legislature to oppose the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, preventing its passage.

A record 11,130 candidates are elected nationwide for nine categories of local government representatives in what are known as the "nine-in-one" local elections.

2015 President Ma and Chinese leader Xi Jinping meet in Singapore in November, marking the first top-level meeting between the two sides in 66 years.

Taiwan signs the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement and submits its instrument of acceptance to the organization.

2016 Tsai Ing-wen and Chen Chien-jen of the DPP are elected president and vice president. The DPP gains its first legislative majority after securing 68 of the 113 seats.

President Tsai Ing-wen officially apologizes on behalf of the government to the nation's Indigenous peoples for the pain and mistreatment they endured for centuries.

2017 The Indigenous Languages Development Act is enacted to preserve and promote the native tongues of Taiwan's 16 officially recognized Indigenous tribes.

Taiwan hosts the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade.

FORMOSAT-5, the nation's first homegrown ultra-high resolution Earth observation satellite, is launched.

2018 Taiwan's Transitional Justice Commission is inaugurated May 31. President Tsai issues an apology to victims of political persecution during the country's White Terror period from 1949 to 1991 following the commission's decision to expunge their criminal records.

2019 A law legalizing same-sex marriage is passed, making Taiwan the first country in Asia to allow LGBTQ+ unions.

2020 Incumbent Tsai Ing-wen and running mate Lai Ching-te of the ruling DPP party win the 2020 presidential and vice presidential elections. The DPP retains its legislative majority.

2022 The Ministry of National Defense establishes an All-out Defense Mobilization Agency for utilization of military reserves and assistance with all related activities and affairs.

The Ministry of Digital Affairs is established Aug. 27 to facilitate development and coordinate the overall planning of digital governance and infrastructure.

2024 Lai Ching-te and Hsiao Bi-khim of the DPP are elected president and vice president. It is the first time a party has held the office for three consecutive terms since Taiwan began direct presidential elections in 1996.

2025 The United States' House of Representatives passes the Taiwan International Solidarity Act May 5, stating that UNGA Resolution 2758 does not address the issue of representation of Taiwan and its people in the UN or related organizations. The act further reaffirms US opposition to any initiative that seeks to change Taiwan's status without the consent of Taiwan's people.



Fact Focus

04

The president and vice president are directly elected every four years.

In Taiwan's legislative elections, each voter casts one ballot for their district and another for at-large seats.

Political System

The constitution, promulgated Jan. 1, 1947, did not begin to serve as the foundation for democratic governance and rule of law until after 1987, when martial law was lifted in Taiwan. It was revised in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2005.

An important consequence of these amendments is that since 1991, the government has acknowledged that its jurisdiction extends only to areas within its border control. The president and legislators, therefore, are elected by and accountable to only the voters of those areas.

The ROC Taiwan Air Force Thunder Tigers Aerobatics Team flies over the Presidential Office Oct. 10 in celebration of the country's 113th National Day. (Chin Hung-hao)



In accordance with constitutional amendments promulgated in June 2005, the number of seats in the Legislative Yuan was reduced from 225 to 113, and legislators' terms were increased from three to four years. Under the new legislative election system, each electoral district elects just one seat. Each voter casts one ballot for the district and another for at-large seats. The power to ratify constitutional amendments is exercised by citizens through referendums.

Levels of Government

The central government comprises the presidency and five major branches, or yuans. The local governments at present include those of six special municipalities, 13 counties and three autonomous municipalities with the same status as counties. Since 2014, all heads and representatives of local governments have been popularly elected simultaneously in cities and counties across Taiwan every four years. In addition, there are 198 county-administered townships and cities, as well as 170 districts—including six Indigenous mountain districts—in autonomous and special municipalities.

Special municipalities are top-level administrative entities that fall under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. They play an important role in leading regional development. This status gives access to greater government funding and the opportunity to set up additional agencies and employ more civil servants. In order of population, the six special municipalities are New Taipei, Taichung, Kaohsiung, Taipei, Taoyuan and Tainan cities.

Five Branches of the Central Government

Executive Yuan

Formulates and implements policies

Legislative Yuan

Reviews and enacts legislation, conducts hearings on policy matters, examines budgetary bills and government operations

Examination Yuan

Manages the civil service system

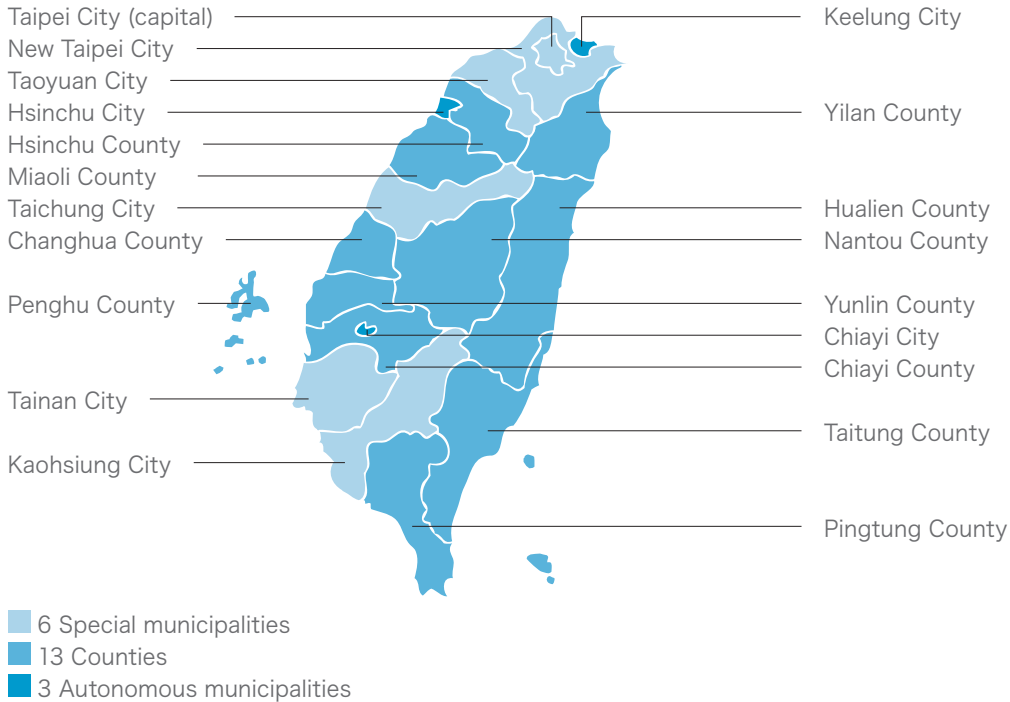
Judicial Yuan

Oversees the nation's court system

Control Yuan

Impeaches and censures officials, audits government agencies

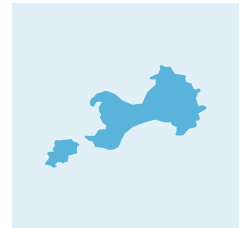
Local Administrative Regions



Lienchiang County



Kinmen County



Presidency and Premiership

The president and vice president are directly elected, serve terms of four years and may be reelected

for one additional term. The president is head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces, represents the nation in foreign relations and is empowered to appoint the heads of the four branches

of government. This includes the premier, who leads the Executive Yuan and must report regularly to the Legislative Yuan, or Legislature. The heads of ministries, commissions and agencies under the Executive Yuan are appointed by the premier and form the Executive Yuan Council, or Cabinet. The Executive Yuan is currently undergoing restructuring to reduce the number of Cabinet-level organizations from 37 to 31.

After reorganization, which commenced in 2012, the Executive Yuan will consist of 15 ministries, 9 councils, 3 independent agencies and 4 other organizations. Under the constitution, neither the president's appointment of the premier nor the premier's appointment of ministers is subject to legislative confirmation.

Presidential appointments to the Control Yuan, Examination Yuan and Judicial Yuan must be confirmed by the Legislature. Lawmakers elect the president of the Legislature, or speaker, from among their ranks.

Political Parties

Given the key role of the presidency in the overall functioning of the government, the term “ruling party” denotes which political party occupies the Presidential Office. The Kuomintang held the presidency in Taiwan for more than five decades before the Democratic Progressive Party won the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The KMT returned to power in 2008 and in 2012. The DPP won the 2016,

2020 and 2024 presidential elections, the first time a party has stayed in power for three consecutive terms since democratization. In the January 2024 legislative elections, the KMT received 52 of the 113 seats, while the DPP secured 51, the Taiwan People's Party took eight and independents two.

Fact Focus

05

A total of 173 countries and territories accord visa-free entry, landing visas or e-visas to ROC Taiwan passport holders.

Taiwan is the only nation included in the US Visa Waiver Program that does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with the US.

Foreign Affairs

The ROC Taiwan is a sovereign and independent state that maintains its own national defense and conducts its own foreign affairs. As enshrined in the constitution, the country aims to “cultivate good-neighborliness with other nations, and respect treaties and the Charter of the UN ... promote international cooperation, advance international justice and ensure world peace.” The ultimate goal of foreign policy is to ensure a favorable environment for the nation’s long-term development.

Based on President Lai Ching-te’s concept of values-based diplomacy and vision of Taiwan as a global

President Lai Ching-te hosts President Bernardo Arévalo of Guatemala at the Presidential Office in Taipei City.
(Courtesy of PO)



economic powerhouse, Taiwan promotes a policy of integrated diplomacy. By building on the three pillars of democracy, peace and prosperity, Taiwan expands co-operation and deepens partnerships to create mutual benefits and share abundance with diplomatic allies and like-minded countries.

Through the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is working to further strengthen ties with Australia, New Zealand, six South Asian countries and the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states. The long-term goal is to create a new type of cooperation proving that Taiwan is a trusted partner.

Taiwan has official relations with diplomatic allies and substantive ties with many other like-minded countries such as Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the UK, the US, and the EU and its member states.

International Participation

Taiwan has full membership in 45 intergovernmental organizations and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Organization for Animal Health and Central American Bank for Economic Integration. It enjoys observer or other statuses in 30 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the committees of both the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and Central American Integration System. In light of Taiwan's robust capital market and pivotal position in Asia, the Central American Bank

for Economic Integration opened an office in Taiwan on July 6, 2021, becoming the first new branch to be opened outside of Central America and deepening Taiwan's participation in regional integration outside the Indo-Pacific.

Taiwan will uphold national sovereignty and dignity and advance the welfare of its people while engaging with the international community pragmatically and professionally to contribute wherever possible. To this end, Taiwan seeks meaningful participation in the UN system, as well as in other intergovernmental organizations and mechanisms such as the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and International Criminal Police Organization, to safeguard and contribute to humanity and the welfare of all humankind. These efforts have won the staunch support of diplomatic allies and like-minded countries.

Strong Relations

As of May 12, 2025, 173 countries and territories have accorded visa-free entry, landing visas or e-visas to Taiwan passport holders. Taiwan has also inked working holiday agreements with 17 countries.

Notably, among the 40 countries included in the US Visa Waiver Program, Taiwan is the only one that does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with the US, highlighting the close relationship between the two sides. The Taiwan Relations Act, passed by the US Congress in 1979, has continued to provide a strong

foundation for Taiwan-US cooperation in the absence of formal diplomatic ties. The US has repeatedly reiterated its security commitments to Taiwan under the TRA and the Six Assurances. In 2018 the Taiwan Travel Act was passed unanimously by the US Congress and signed into law by then US President Donald J. Trump. This legislation encourages visits by officials at all levels from the two sides, underscoring the strong support for Taiwan from the executive and legislative branches of the US government. In 2020 the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI Act) was passed by the US Congress and signed into law, expressing US support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world and Taiwan's participation in international organizations. In 2021 the Biden administration reiterated the country's commitment to Taiwan, issuing new guidelines for US government interactions with Taiwan counterparts to encourage greater engagement.

Since taking office in January 2025, the new Trump administration has consistently demonstrated support for Taiwan across various platforms. Both the US-Japan summit joint statement and the US-Japan-South Korea foreign ministers' joint statement emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as an indispensable element of international security and prosperity, opposed any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo, and voiced support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations. Many US officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have publicly reiterated this position on multiple occasions. In



Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung (center left) visits the Texas House of Representatives May 8 in the state capital of Austin. (Courtesy of MOFA)

addition, the National Defense Authorization Act 2025 was passed by both the US House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law. The act includes provisions aimed at strengthening Taiwan's self-defense capabilities and encourages deeper defense industry cooperation between the US and Taiwan. As the scope of bilateral cooperation continues to expand, the Taiwan-US partnership is evolving into a model of global collaboration.

Of the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Taiwan maintains formal diplomatic ties with seven: Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Taiwan and its allies in Latin America and the Caribbean enjoy robust relations, having long engaged in close cooperation across such domains as public health, agriculture, education, information and communications technology, green energy, tourism, and women's empowerment. Joint endeavors aimed at benefiting the economy and people's livelihoods have achieved significant success and earned widespread acclaim.

Taiwan and the Holy See have long-standing diplomatic relations, marking the 83rd anniversary of official ties in 2025, and possess a shared commitment to religious freedom and humanitarian relief. Taiwan has collaborated with the Holy See to strengthen humanitarian efforts and will continue to be an indispensable partner to the Holy See and like-minded countries in their efforts to foster love, charity and world peace.

Taiwan and the EU have developed close cooperation and exchanges across numerous fields, strengthening their robust and vibrant economic and trade ties and increasing cooperation in emerging issues such as green energy, new technologies, digital transformation and supply chain restructuring. Taiwan and the EU are also expanding collaboration in the area of human rights. Through the annual Taiwan-EU Human Rights Consultations, both sides are working together on topics of mutual concern and interest, including gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights and migrant worker rights.

During the EU's 2019-2024 mandate, the European Parliament adopted nearly 40 resolutions advocating further and deeper cooperation between the EU and

Taiwan, supporting Taiwan's international participation and expressing grave concerns over China's provocations in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan and Japan enjoy strong ties through dozens of agreements and memorandums of understanding concluded by the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association that promote exchanges in trade and economy, science and technology, culture and education. In Japan's 2024 Diplomatic Bluebook, Taiwan is classified as an extremely important partner, and Japan is an unwavering advocate for Taiwan's international participation as well as a staunch promoter of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan and Japan consistently aid each other in times of need, such as the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and after earthquakes hit Noto, Japan, in January 2024 and Hualien County in eastern Taiwan in April the same year.

The strength of trade relations is evident in the annual economic and trade conference as well as the biannual economic partnership committee, which both recommenced in 2022 after hiatuses. The two countries held annual meetings on maritime affairs in August 2024, during which they explored opportunities for further collaboration in scientific research and maritime security.

In November 2015 Taiwan and the Philippines concluded the Agreement Concerning the Facilitation of

Cooperation on Law Enforcement in Fisheries Matters to safeguard the security of the fishing industry.

On July 19, 2016, then-President Tsai Ing-wen stated four principles and five actions on South China Sea issues. First, disputes should be settled peacefully in accordance with international law and the law of the sea, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; second, Taiwan should be included in multilateral mechanisms aimed at resolving disputes; third, states concerned have an obligation to safeguard freedom of navigation and overflight in the region; and fourth, disputes should be resolved by setting aside differences and promoting joint development. Through negotiations conducted on the basis of equality, Taiwan is willing to work with all states concerned to advance peace and stability in the South China Sea and to jointly conserve and develop resources in the region. The five actions encompass safeguarding the country's fishing rights, participating in multilateral consultations, promoting scientific cooperation, conducting humanitarian assistance and rescue operations, and nurturing experts in the law of the sea.

The government is transforming Taiping Island in the Nansha (Spratly) Islands into a base for humanitarian aid and supplies in the South China Sea. Since assuming responsibility in 2000 for maintaining the government's presence on Taiping Island and the Dongsha (Pratas) Islands, the Coast Guard Administration under the Cabinet-level Ocean Affairs Council has continued to carry out disaster response and humanitarian aid missions and assist individuals from home and abroad.

The CGA is committed to deepening collaboration with its counterparts from neighboring countries in line with the government's policy of working with all relevant parties to advance peace and stability in the South China Sea.

With an area of 0.51 square kilometers, Taiping Island has full capacity to sustain human habitation and an economic life of its own. It meets the criteria of an island as defined in Article 121 of the UNCLOS, affording Taiwan full rights associated with territorial waters, a contiguous zone, a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and a continental shelf under the UNCLOS.

Win-Win Cooperation

As a model citizen in global society, Taiwan will continue to offer humanitarian aid and disease control while actively participating in international work to tackle climate change, terrorism and transnational crime.

The nation is building lasting partnerships with allied and like-minded countries by fostering government interaction, business investment and people-to-people exchanges as it works with partners around the world to uphold and promote the universal values of peace, freedom, democracy and human rights.

The Global Cooperation and Training Framework established in 2015 serves as an important platform for Taiwan, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia and other like-minded partners to jointly organize training programs attended by officials and experts from around the world. The GCTF has strengthened global capacity



Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung (left) meets with King Mswati III of Eswatini in April in Mbabane, the African ally's capital. (Courtesy of MOFA)

in key areas aligned with its five core pillars: promoting the rule of law, enhancing resilience to cross-border challenges, improving governance and institutional effectiveness, advancing inclusive prosperity, and fostering long-term sustainability. The GCTF continues to grow, both in the number of participating countries and the breadth of issues it addresses.

Taiwan's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, using high-tech contact tracing and transparent information sharing, became known globally as the Taiwan Model. Its success, as well as donations of masks and other medical supplies to over 80 countries, opened the

door for the country to collaborate closely with natural allies on coronavirus vaccine development and studies.

Praised for saving lives and bolstering the global pandemic response, the Taiwan Model was put to the test during the country's most severe domestic outbreak in 2021. A swift response from all segments of society, supported by a virtuous circle of vaccine donations from home and abroad, saw Taiwan successfully fight back against COVID-19. Buoyed by this backing, Taiwan continues to bolster cooperation with like-minded countries on public health to safeguard health for all.

Societal changes, economic liberalization and democratic transformation in Taiwan have created a fertile environment for the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations have flourished. Civil society plays a key role in ensuring good governance and enabling Taiwan to exert its soft power in the international community. NGOs have raised Taiwan's profile by engaging in various international cooperation projects closely aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To better connect Taiwan's NGOs to the world, the government is committed to facilitating participation in international conferences and events while building overall capacity. The government is also eager to help international NGOs establish a presence in Taiwan, thereby fostering an environment conducive to the further promotion of democracy, freedom, human rights and prosperity.

Fact Focus

06

The following are President Lai Ching-te's Four Pillars of Peace:

- Strengthened national defense
- Improved economic security
- Stable and principled cross-strait leadership
- Values-based diplomacy

Cross-strait Relations

Since the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, it has exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan Island, Penghu Islands, Kinmen Islands, Matsu Islands and a number of smaller islets, while China has been under the control of the authorities in Beijing. With the acceleration of Taiwan's democratization in the late 1980s, many restrictions on civil exchanges with China were lifted. Between 1991 and the end of December 2024, approved investment in China comprised 45,833 cases totaling US\$210.02 billion and the value of cross-strait trade in 2024 reached US\$176.28 billion.

In June 2008 institutionalized talks between Taiwan's semiofficial Straits Exchange Foundation and China's



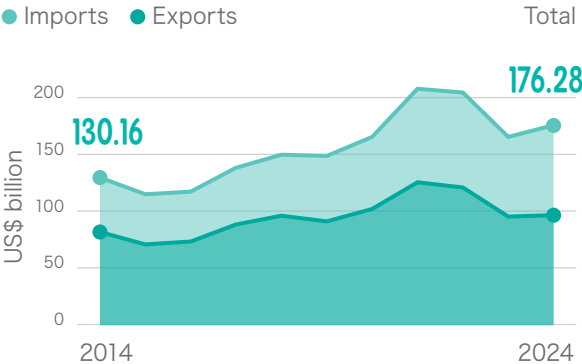
The Straits Exchange Foundation is a semiofficial body that handles civil and business matters between ROC Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. (Chin Hung-hao)

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits resumed after a 10-year hiatus. By August 2015, 11 rounds of negotiations had been held alternately on either side of the Taiwan Strait, producing 23 formal agreements, of which 21 have come into effect, and two consensuses. Most significant among the accords is the Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement concluded in June 2010, which aims to institutionalize trade and economic relations between Taiwan and China.

Peace and Stability

To promote a stable economy, the country requires a peaceful and secure external environment, especially with regard to China. In his inaugural address on May

Cross-Strait Trade



Source: International Trade Administration

20, 2024, President Lai stressed that Taiwan Strait peace, mutual benefit and prosperous coexistence should be the shared goals of both parties.

Democracy and freedom are unwavering core values, and prosperity, gained through lasting peace and stability, is the country's objective. The government will neither yield nor provoke, but instead maintain the cross-strait status quo and seek to resume healthy and orderly exchanges in line with the principle of parity.

However, in recent years China has set political preconditions for cross-strait exchanges, unilaterally suspended official interactions and continuously exerted political suppression and military coercion. On Jan. 2, 2019, China proposed exploration of the "one country, two systems" model for Taiwan, a profound disruption of the status quo.

In 2022 Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, visited Taiwan, and the following year then President Tsai Ing-wen met with the subsequent House speaker, Kevin McCarthy. In the wake of both events, the Chinese authorities ramped up pressure on Taiwan through intensified political interference and military threats along with economic coercion and other gray zone tactics.

In light of geopolitical tensions, the government has updated the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area. Amendments passed to date have established an

oversight mechanism for cross-strait political agreements and adjusted fines for unauthorized Chinese investment. Articles were also amended to tighten restrictions on travel to China by anyone who was commissioned by or received a research grant from the government and possesses or has access to key national security-related technologies, as well as to strengthen regulations preventing Chinese enterprises from conducting unpermitted business activities in Taiwan via third party investment.

The government will consider the development of the cross-strait situation in accordance with the principles and directions of President Lai's policy. It will listen to voices from all sectors of society, strengthen management mechanisms for cross-strait exchanges, improve democracy and defense mechanisms and coordinate with relevant authorities to amend laws and regulations when necessary. This is intended to promote positive cross-strait interaction and maintain normal and orderly exchanges between the two sides.

Consistent Approach

The government will continue to address cross-strait ties based on the constitution of the ROC Taiwan, the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, and the will of the people.

The government calls on the authorities in Beijing to face the reality of the ROC Taiwan's existence and respect the choices of the people of Taiwan by engaging with the legitimate government they have chosen.

It encourages China to choose dialogue over confrontation and exchange over containment.

The government has repeatedly stated that the Chinese Communist Party should cease its political and military intimidation and share the global responsibility to maintain rules-based order. Despite threats from the CCP, Taiwan will uphold the Four Unchanged Commitments, based on former President Tsai Ing-wen's Four Commitments: defend national sovereignty; maintain the status quo of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; hold healthy and orderly dialogue and exchanges between the two sides on the basis of parity and dignity; and protect Taiwan's democratic and free way of life, while promoting the Four Pillars of Peace action plan and 17 major strategies to respond to major national security threats.

The government will continue deepening cooperation with the US, Japan and other like-minded countries to counter China's threats to Taiwan; promote regional peace, stability and prosperity; and protect the nation's interests.

Fact Focus

07

Taiwan was the world's 16th largest goods exporter in 2024.

Under the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is deepening ties across the board with Australia, New Zealand, six South Asian countries and the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states.

Economy

Taiwan holds an important position in the global economy. It is a top player in the world's information and communications technology industry as well as a major supplier of goods.

According to the World Trade Organization, Taiwan was the world's 16th largest exporter and the 18th largest importer in 2024. It was also one of the largest holders of foreign exchange reserves as of December 2024. According to the International Monetary Fund, Taiwan's gross domestic product per capita reached US\$34,430 as of April 2025. In terms of nominal GDP, Taiwan ranks close to Poland and Switzerland, while its GDP per capita expressed as purchasing power parity is similar to that of Denmark and the Netherlands.



Biotechnology is one of the sectors targeted for accelerated growth under Taiwan's five-plus-two innovative industries plan. (Chin Hung-hao)

Trade Growth

Easing inflation and interest rate cuts in 2024 drove a rebound in global trade. Benefiting from emerging opportunities in artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and other innovative applications, in 2024 Taiwan's total trade value reached US\$869.4 billion, an increase of 10.9 percent over the previous year. Exports rose 9.8 percent and imports rose 12.2 percent. Annual surveys of the world's economies, including those conducted by the International Institute for Management Development and Business Environment Risk Intelligence, consistently rank Taiwan among top nations for long-term growth and technological development. Results announced in 2025 are shown in "Global Survey Rankings" (p. 64-65). In July 2013 Taiwan signed an economic cooperation agreement with New Zealand, its first with a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. An economic partnership accord was also inked with Singapore in November the same year, marking Taiwan's first such pact with a trading partner in Southeast Asia. Both agreements exceed WTO commitments. Such developments are expected to facilitate Taiwan's participation in regional economic integration blocs such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

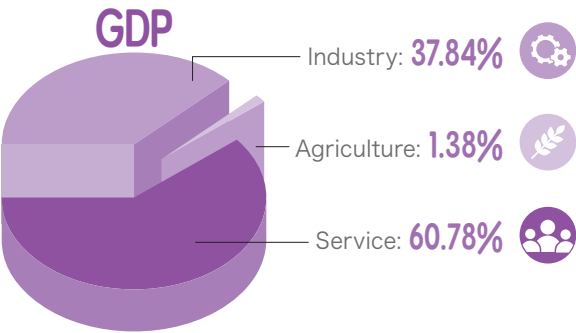
Taiwan signed economic cooperation agreements with Paraguay, Eswatini, the Marshall Islands and Belize in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

GDP Snapshot (2024)

Nominal: **US\$797 billion**

Per capita (nominal): **US\$34,040**

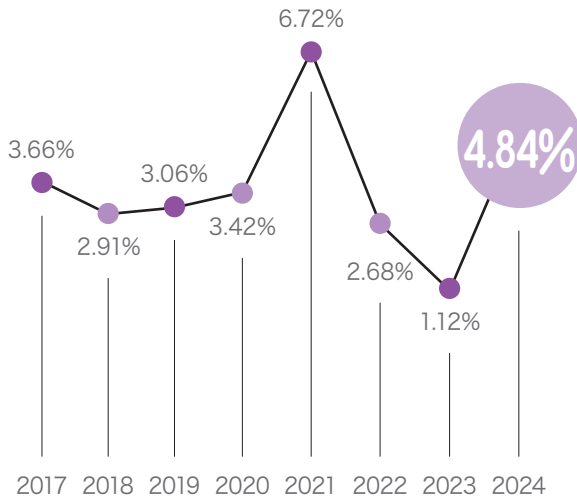
PPP per capita (by IMF): **US\$76,860**



The agreements strengthen economic, investment, technological and trade ties, enhancing friendship with these countries.

The first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade was signed in June 2023. The two

Economic Growth Rates



Source: Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics

countries also enhanced supply chain cooperation and energy transition through the Taiwan-US Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue and the Taiwan-US Technology Trade and Investment Collaboration. On Feb. 22, 2024, the two countries signed an MOU on international development cooperation, which advanced Taiwan's work with the US International Development Finance Corporation on private sector investment opportunities.

Development Approaches

In 2016 the government launched a new industrial development policy to expedite transformation and upgrades. This policy was called the five-plus-two innovative industries plan and became the key factor in driving industrial growth in next-generation smart machinery, Asia Silicon Valley, biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, new agriculture, and circular economy.

In 2020, building on previous policies, six core strategic industries were identified to link with 2019's Three Major Plans for Investing in Taiwan. These were the information and digital, cybersecurity, precision health, national defense and strategy, green and renewable energy, and strategic stockpile industries. Accelerated development of the targeted areas will enhance overall industrial development and create a better investment environment for sector transformation and upgrades.

The government promotes the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program to meet national infrastructure needs over the next 30 years. This program contains eight major elements: railway development, digital infrastructure, aquatic environments, food safety, green energy, urban-rural development, raising birthrates and expanding childcare facilities, and nurturing the workforce.

As it works to advance innovative industries, the government is committed to protecting the environment.

Trade and Investment Profile (2024)

Total trade value: **US\$869.4 billion**



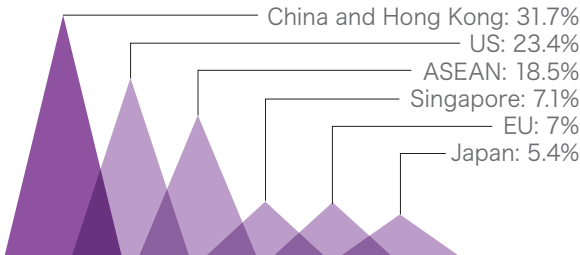
Exports: **US\$475 billion**



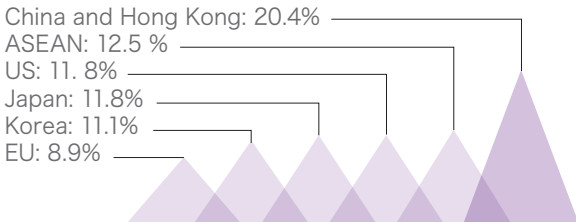
Imports: **US\$394.4 billion**

Trade balance: US\$80.6 billion surplus

Top export destinations (as % of total export):



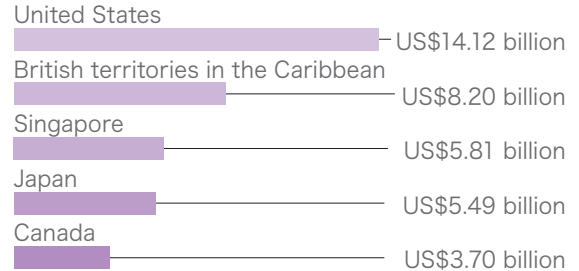
Top import sources (as % of total import):



Foreign exchange reserves: **US\$576.67 billion**
(As of December 2024)

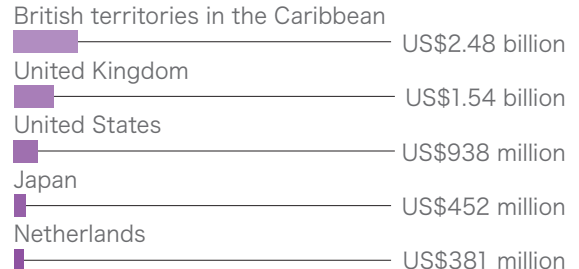
Registered outward investment: **US\$44.93 billion**

Top five destinations



Registered inward investment: **US\$7.8billion**

Top five sources



Global Survey Rankings

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank	Countries Surveyed	Surveying Institution
World Competitiveness Yearbook (June 2025)	6	69	International Institute for Management Development
Index of Economic Freedom (March 2025)	4	184	The Heritage Foundation

The new economic model seeks to fully integrate industrial restructuring, national land-use planning and regional growth strategies to foster sustainable development while advocating for use of green energy resources.

To strengthen the economy through inclusive growth, smart technology and sustainability, in 2024 the government focused on the Five Trusted Industry Sectors, namely semiconductors, AI, military, security and surveillance, and next-generation communications. Small- and medium-sized enterprises also receive assistance to upgrade and transform.

In response to the advent of generative AI and the challenges of digital and net-zero industrial transformation, the Asia Silicon Valley Development Plan 3.0 focuses on technology including AI, 5G and satellite networks to accelerate both digital and net-zero carbon industry transitions. It aims to expand funding for startups over the next four years.

The government is working to raise wages and enhance regional development while mitigating global challenges and the US-China trade war. Measures are expected to improve industrial competitiveness and further bolster Taiwan's economy.

Fact Focus

08

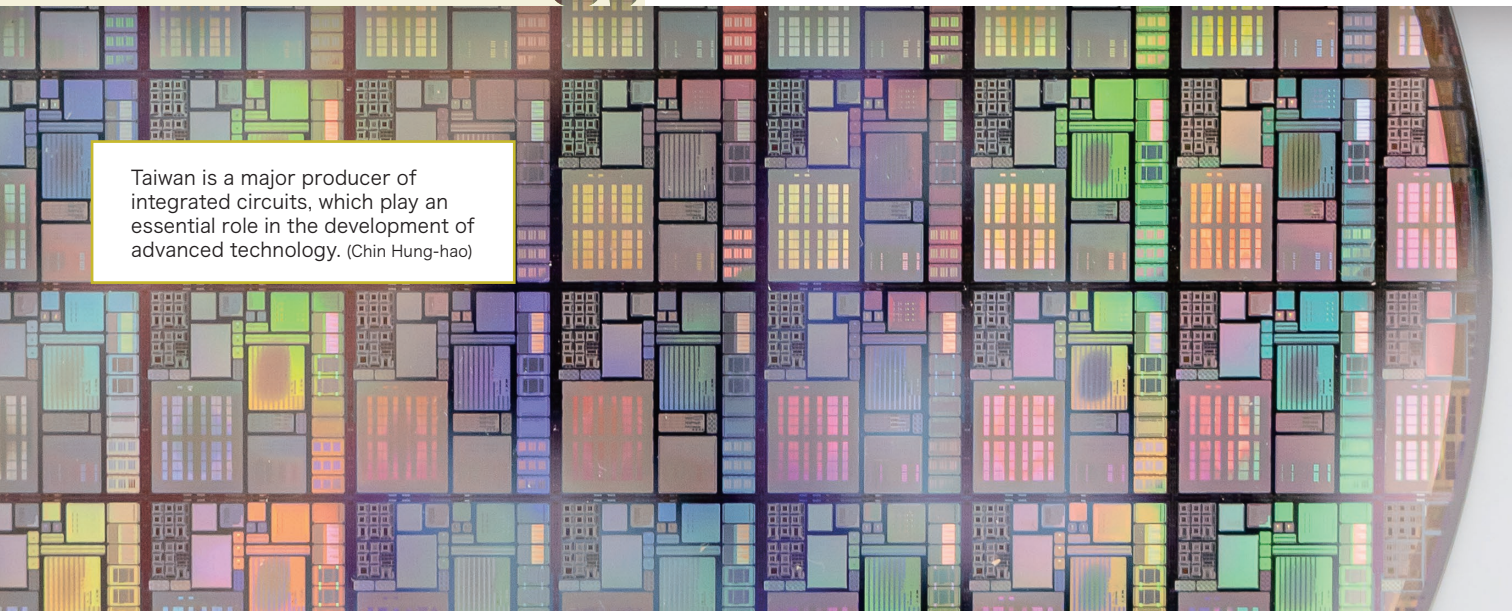
Taiwan is one of the world's leading producers of information and communications technology products.

The International Institute for Management Development ranked Taiwan 6th out of 69 economies in the World Competitiveness Yearbook released in June 2025.

Science and Technology

To realize the government's Smart Taiwan 2030 vision to make Taiwan innovative, inclusive and sustainable, the National Science and Technology Council is strengthening cross-ministerial cooperation to better meet the needs of the country's diverse population, integrate innovative technologies into everyday life and open opportunities for new eco-friendly industries. Since science and technology are key drivers of economic growth and national progress, the NSTC spurs development by nurturing startups, promoting the nation's three science parks and supporting academic research. It also implements a range of measures and programs to foster creativity and ensure research focuses on industry needs.

Taiwan is a major producer of integrated circuits, which play an essential role in the development of advanced technology. (Chin Hung-hao)



The success of Taiwan's high-tech enterprises is largely attributable to the government's generous funding for applied scientific development. With government support, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, the National Institutes of Applied Research and the Institute for Information Industry all play important roles in the nation's growth as a technological powerhouse by conducting research, aiding the private sector with R&D and exploring new technologies.

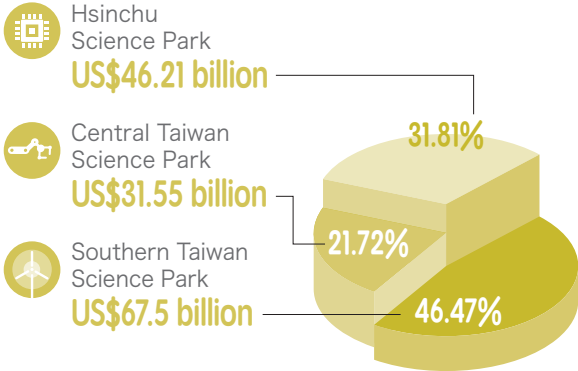
Supporting Innovation

ITRI's expertise is illustrated by its awards. Over the past 17 years, it has garnered 66 R&D 100 Awards, as well as 23 Edison Awards since 2017 and nine Clarivate Top 100 Global Innovator awards since 2015. The institute has also played a pivotal role in nurturing companies that have gone on to achieve success in the global market. Among these are Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and United Microelectronics Corporation, renowned as global leaders in custom integrated circuit production.

Established in 2003, NIAR, known until March 2025 as National Applied Research Laboratories, combined seven national laboratories into an independent nonprofit institute under the NSTC.

Under the new name, NIAR remains committed to its core missions, including establishing R&D platforms, supporting academic research, promoting science and technology at the frontiers of knowledge, and fostering high-tech personnel.

Turnover in Taiwan's three major science parks (2024)



Source: National Science and Technology Council

In its role as a national laboratory, NIAR continues to work in sync with government policies and global trends to lead innovation. It pursues multidisciplinary integration and emerging technologies based on existing scientific research domains. Responses to environmental impact and social change include semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, uncrewed systems, net-zero technology and biotechnology. NIAR is committed to national development through the establishment of R&D platforms and enabling of new technologies.

The goal of III is to raise Taiwan's global competitiveness by providing a platform for digital transformation.

Global Survey Rankings

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank (Category)	Countries Surveyed	Surveying Institution
World Competitiveness Yearbook (June 2025)	10 (Technological Infrastructure)	69	International Institute for Management Development
	5 (Scientific Infrastructure)		
Global Competitiveness Report (October 2019)	4 (Innovation Capability)	141	World Economic Forum

The institute conducts R&D on innovative information communications technology products and applications. As a think tank for policymaking and promoting talent cultivation, it also plays a key role in advancing ICT development in the public and private sectors. More than 500,000 professionals have received training through ITRI over the past four decades.

Taiwan's tech ecosystem provides an ideal launchpad for global investors seeking to establish a foothold in Asia. Technology developers, engineering service providers and local venture capital firms bring deep expertise in collaborative tech innovation. This spirit is embodied by Taiwan Tech Arena, a dynamic hub for startups that draws ambitious entrepreneurs from around the world.

With bases in both Taipei and Tainan, TTA brings together accelerators, venture capitalists and industry leaders to foster a vibrant international startup ecosystem. It serves as a springboard for local and global tech enterprises.

Fact Focus

09

There are 140 universities, colleges and junior colleges in Taiwan.

The Bilingual 2030 policy promotes English and Mandarin fluency to enhance global competitiveness.

Education is an important component of government policymaking and accounts for a large portion of the national budget. With an increasing emphasis on tertiary education, those with a technical college or university degree account for 50.6 percent of Taiwan's population, a 7.9 percent increase over the past decade.

The Ministry of Education introduced 12-year basic education in 2014 as an expansion of the existing nine-year compulsory education system. Every year students from Taiwan win distinctions in biology, chemistry, earth sciences, mathematics, informatics and physics in competitions such as the International Science Olympiad.

Education

Preschoolers paint pebbles at a government-run day care center as part of an early years curriculum. (Chin Hung-hao)



Taiwan's educated professionals contribute tremendously to economic prosperity and quality of life.

Recognizing the country's multicultural nature, the government has included mandatory courses in Taiwan Taigi, Taiwan Hakka, Taiwan Indigenous languages and those of new immigrants in its 12-year basic education curriculum to spur the transmission, revival and development of such languages. To enhance the global competitiveness of Taiwan's workforce and industry, the government introduced the Bilingual 2030 policy in 2021.

The Ministry of Sports was inaugurated in September 2025 to advance physical education, coordinate sports-related activities, encourage citizen involvement and promote the sports industry and sports diplomacy to forge a healthy society.

Scholarship Programs

Both government and university scholarships are available for international students. The Taiwan Scholarship program offers funding to students who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in diverse fields. Applicants can contact embassies and representative offices or visit the MOE's website: english.moe.gov.tw/lp-24-1.html.

The MOE has also established the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to encourage international students to learn Mandarin in Taiwan and expand their knowledge of Taiwan's culture and society. This program enables foreign students to take Mandarin courses at 65

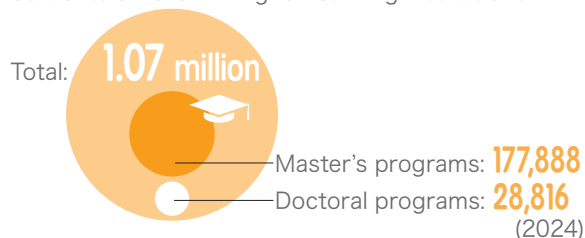
Snapshot

Literacy rate (15+): **99.3%**  (2024)

Outlays for education, science and culture:
 **19.3%** of central budget (2025)

Higher learning institutions: **140** 
(128 universities and colleges, 12 junior colleges)

Students enrolled in higher learning institutions:



university-affiliated language learning centers around the country. A list of Mandarin training centers and other information on learning the language in Taiwan can be found on the websites of the MOE, Study in Taiwan (www.studyintaiwan.org) and the Taiwan Mandarin Educational Resources Center (https://lmit.edu.tw/en/school_list).

Fact Focus

10

Taiwan is the center of the Mandarin pop music industry.

The National Palace Museum in Taipei City houses one of the largest collections of ancient Chinese artifacts in the world.

Culture

Taiwan is renowned for its fascinating blend of traditional and modern. Museums across the country showcase the breadth of its history and culture, including the National Palace Museum, National Taiwan Museum, National Museum of History, National Museum of Prehistory, National Museum of Taiwan History, National Museum of Taiwan Literature and National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. Taiwan also has performance venues nationwide, including the National Theater and Concert Hall in Taipei, National

A sculpture by Lu Ping-cheng of a giant divination block at the National Center for Traditional Arts in Taiwan's Yilan County is created from woven bamboo and Hakka cloth. (Chen Mei-ling)



Taichung Theater, National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts and Taiwan Traditional Theatre Center in Taipei. High-quality venues have made Taiwan a regional arts hub, hosting events like Taiwan International Festival of Arts.

Traditional architecture abounds, not only in the country's magnificent temples and official residences, but also in the many old structures that have been revitalized for use as community centers, cafes, stores and other public spaces. In fact, many aspects of traditional Chinese arts, crafts and customs are better preserved in Taiwan than other parts of East Asia. For example, Taiwan is one of the few places still using traditional Chinese characters, and calligraphy competitions are always popular events.

The tenets of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism continue to be well represented in everything from temple celebrations and literature to the visual and performing arts. In addition, visitors can learn about the heritage of Taiwan Hakka- and Taiwan Taigi-speaking communities, as well as the 16 officially recognized Indigenous peoples. Taiwan shares its traditional riches throughout the world via programs supported by the cultural divisions of representative offices overseas.

Taiwan's larger cities are thriving metropolises that offer 24/7 entertainment options. There are highly regarded dance companies and a vibrant music scene, as befits the world capital of Mandopop, or Mandarin pop music. The recently opened Taipei Music Center



An artisan adds the final touches to a traditional lantern. (Chen Mei-ling)

and Kaohsiung Music Center have rapidly become major performance venues. The local television and film sector has seen a resurgence in recent years, while the country's booming cultural and creative industries are evident in the designer stores, markets and exhibitions that grow in number every year.

From literature and folk festivals to lively night markets, Taiwan's past gives vitality and depth to its present.

Fact Focus

11

Taiwan ranks first in Asia in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders.

The diversity of Taiwan's media is reflected in the plethora of outlets and intense competition within the industry. The nation's press operates in a media environment that is the most liberal in Asia.

Taiwan was ranked 24th globally and first in Asia in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index released May 2 by France-based Reporters Without Borders. In the survey of 180 countries and territories, Taiwan finished ahead of South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and China. As of June 2024, a total of 176 journalists from 84 media organizations in 22 countries were based in Taiwan.

Media

President Lai Ching-te (front, second right) poses for a selfie with staff from two local news agencies. (Courtesy of PO)



Snapshot



Radio stations:
186



Terrestrial television stations:
5



Satellite broadcasting providers:
133
(296 channels)

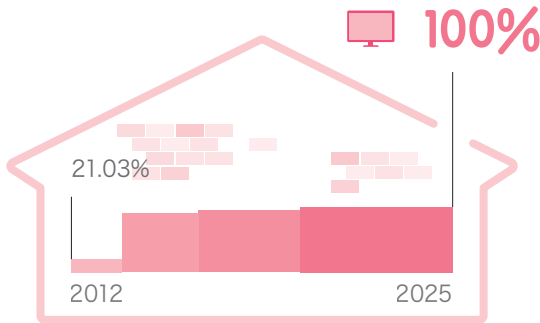


Cable television operators:
63

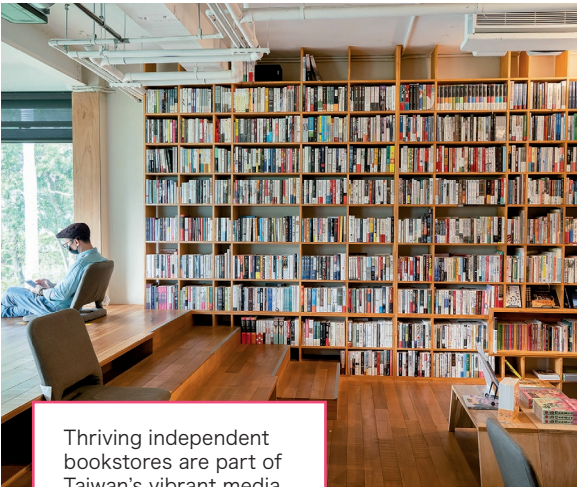
(2025 Q1 statistics)

Source: National Communications Commission

Digital TV Household Penetration Rate



Source: National Communications Commission



Thriving independent bookstores are part of Taiwan's vibrant media landscape. (Chin Hung-hao)

Most types of media are engaged in an industrywide transition to digital distribution. Drawing on Taiwan's strengths in information and communications technologies, e-publishing is injecting fresh vitality into the local publishing industry, which released 36,174 new titles between January and August 2024.

Digitization of cable television has not only significantly improved the visual experience of viewers, but also unleashed more innovative and diverse broadband services. With digitization virtually completed, cable television has become an important platform for various multimedia applications.

Fact Focus

12

Citizens of more than 62 countries and territories enjoy visa-free entry to Taiwan for 14, 30 or 90 days.

Taiwan has a 24-hour multilingual travel information hotline (0800-011-765).

Visiting Taiwan

With its unique fusion of cultures, breathtaking scenery, diverse cuisine, exciting city life and well-developed hospitality industry, Taiwan is an ideal destination for all types of travelers.

In addition to about 1,100 kilometers of conventional railway lines, Taiwan has a 350-km high-speed rail system along its west coast. The high-speed line enables travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung in 94 minutes. These two cities, as well as the northern and central cities of Taoyuan and Taichung, also boast state-of-the-art mass rapid transit systems.

High speed and traditional rail lines are linked in locations such as Hsinchu County, where the networks share the same station. (Chin Hung-hao)



Taiwan has centuries of tea growing expertise, now refined further by technology that results in high quality products for export and domestic consumption. (Jimmy Lin)



International Trade Shows

Throughout the year, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) organizes shows covering the entire spectrum of industries. Major venues

include the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall and Nangang Exhibition Hall in the north, as well as the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in the south. For more details, visit www.taiwantradeshows.com.tw.

General Information for Visitors

The government maintains numerous websites and hotlines to provide foreign nationals with information about traveling, living and working in Taiwan.

Website/Hotline	Languages
Taiwan Tourism Administration www.taiwan.net.tw	English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Mandarin, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese
Travel Information Hotline 0800-011-765 (24 hours)	English, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin
National Immigration Agency www.immigration.gov.tw	English, Indonesian, Khmer, Mandarin, Thai, Vietnamese
Foreigners in Taiwan Hotline domestic calls: 1990 calls from overseas: 886-800-001990	24 hours, 7 days a week: English, Japanese, Mandarin From 9:00-17:00, Mon-Fri: Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese

Tourist Attractions

Northern Taiwan

National Palace Museum: www.npm.gov.tw

Taipei 101: www.taipei-101.com.tw

New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum:
www.ceramics.ntpc.gov.tw

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall:
www.cksmh.gov.tw

Lungshan Temple: www.lungshan.org.tw

Shei-Pa National Park: www.spnp.gov.tw

Yangmingshan National Park: www.ymsnp.gov.tw

Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area:
www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw

North Coast and Guanyinshan National Scenic Area:
www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw



Central Taiwan

Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area:
www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw

Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village:
www.nine.com.tw

Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area:
www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw

National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute: www.ntcri.gov.tw

Lukang Township: www.lukang.gov.tw

National Museum of Natural Science:
www.nmns.edu.tw

Yushan National Park: www.ysnp.gov.tw



Eastern Taiwan

Taroko National Park: www.taroko.gov.tw

National Forest Recreation Areas:
recreation.forest.gov.tw

East Coast National Scenic Area:
www.eastcoast-nsa.gov.tw

East Longitudinal Valley National Scenic Area:
www.erv-nsa.gov.tw



Southern Taiwan

Taijiang National Park: www.tjnp.gov.tw

Kenting National Park: www.ktnp.gov.tw

Alishan National Scenic Area: www.ali-nsa.net

Siraya National Scenic Area: www.siraya-nsa.gov.tw

Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area: www.dbnsa.gov.tw

Maolin National Scenic Area: www.maolin-nsa.gov.tw

Southwest Coast National Scenic Area:
<http://www.swcoast-nsa.gov.tw/en>

Shoushan National Nature Park: www.nnp.gov.tw



Outlying Islands

Kinmen National Park: www.kmnp.gov.tw

South Penghu Marine National Park:
www.marine.gov.tw

Matsu National Scenic Area: www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw

Green Island and Orchid Island:
tour.taitung.gov.tw/en/discover/offshore-islands



Festivals & Events

Month	Festival / Event*
Jan	New Year's Eve celebrations
Feb	Taiwan Lantern Festival**
Mar	Taiwan International Orchid Show
Apr	Taichung Mazu International Festival (religious pilgrimage) Dapeng Bay Marine Festival Taipei Fashion Week
May	Penghu International Fireworks Festival
Jun	Solar Festival in Taiwan Taiwan East Coast Land Arts Festival and Moonlight Sea Concert
Jul	Taiwan International Balloon Festival
Aug	Taiwan Culinary Exhibition
Sep	Taiwan Cycling Festival
Oct	Sun Moon Lake Cycling, Music & Fireworks Festival
Nov	Taiwan PASIWALI Festival Gaillardia Islands Penghu Cross-Sea Marathon
Dec	Taiwan Hot Spring & Fine Cuisine Festival Christmasland in New Taipei City



Lukang Township's Tianhou Temple in central Taiwan's Changhua County is dedicated to Mazu, goddess of the sea. (Chin Hung-hao)

*For more information, visit <https://eng.taiwan.net.tw>.
**The Taiwan Lantern Festival is held in a different city or county each year. It will be held in Chiayi County in 2026.

Currency

New Taiwan dollar (NT\$ or TWD)

Exchange rate: NT\$30 per US\$1 (June 2025)

Time Zone

All territories in same time zone, UTC +8 hours
(no seasonal adjustments)

Credit Cards and Travelers' Checks

Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Travelers' checks can be cashed at foreign exchange banks as well as many hotels and tourist-oriented stores.

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Taiwan. A 10 percent service charge is often added to room rates and meals at hotels and restaurants.

Electricity

AC 110 V / 60 Hz

Visa Information

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Phone: (+886)-2-2343-2888

Website: www.boca.gov.tw

Customs Regulations

Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance

Phone: (+886)-2-2550-5500 ext. 2116

Website: web.customs.gov.tw
