



Western Taiwan 5-Day Essential Highlights Tour (CITTWW)

Taiwan, once known as Formosa, meaning “Beautiful Island,” boasts a great variety of beautiful natural areas and picturesque scenery. Our itineraries are designed to take you to all of the tourist destinations and attractions in Taiwan most worth visiting. After going on one of our tours, you will have gained a basic understanding of Taiwan’s cultural characteristics and seen its distinctive island scenery, which will give you quite a different impression than that of Mainland China.

Please note:

* *This itinerary is intended to be used as a tour extension for travelers who are already in China. We can arrange a longer and more comprehensive Taiwan itinerary for travelers who wish to travel only to Taiwan.*

* *The Chinese names listed in the itinerary are written with the traditional characters used in Taiwan. In English, names are generally rendered in both the Wade-Giles system traditionally used in Taiwan for romanizing Chinese and Hanyu Pinyin, the Mainland Chinese standard that Taiwan has officially converted to in recent years.*

Day 1: Origin – Taipei (Táiběi)

After your flight arrives at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, you will be escorted to your hotel for a good night’s rest.

Taipei Accommodations: Taipei Les Breezy Hotel 台北薇風馥麗飯店 or equivalent

<http://www.breezy.com.tw/eng/index.htm>

Day 2: Taipei – Nantou (Nántóu)

First you will visit the **National Palace Museum**, which boasts a collection of well over 600,000 of China’s most precious artifacts, though only a small percentage can be put on display at any given time. This prodigious collection was originally housed in the Forbidden City in Beijing until it was moved in 1933 by China’s Nationalist government to keep it from falling into the hands of the Japanese army. Ranked among the best museums in the world, the National Palace Museum is an absolute must-see for any visitor to Taiwan. Afterward, you will stop at a coral exhibition center and a duty-free store to do some shopping. Then you will leave Taipei and proceed by coach to the **Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area**, which features the largest freshwater lake in Taiwan. The lake takes its name from the fact that half of it is shaped roughly like a crescent moon and the other half is shaped roughly like the sun; people also describe its misty appearance as being like “watery gauze.” Next, you will tour two of the area’s most important tourist attractions. **Wenwu Temple** is a picturesque temple dedicated to both Confucius and the warrior god Guan Gong. Located on **Green Dragon Mountain**, **Hsuanchuang Temple** was built in honor of the Tang Dynasty monk Xuan Zang, who brought Buddhist scriptures from India to China. You will also visit **Itashao Village** (also known as **Tehuashe**), a re-creation of a Taiwanese aboriginal village with an exhibit of artifacts of the local aboriginal culture.

Day 2 Attractions:

National Palace Museum (故宮博物院, Gùgōng Bówùyùàn)

Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area (日月潭國家風景區, Riyuè Tán Guójiā Fēngjǐng Qū)

Wenwu Temple (文武廟, Wénwǔ Miào)

Green Dragon Mountain (青龍山, Qīnglóng Shān)

Hsuanchuang Temple (玄奘寺, Xuánzàng Sì)

Itashao Village/Tehuashe (伊達邵村, Yīdǎshào Cūn / 德化社, Déhuàshè)

Special Arrangements: During lunch today you will have a chance to watch an aboriginal-style performance.

Nantou Accommodations: Cheng Pao Hotel 埔里鎮寶大飯店 or equivalent

<http://chengpao.hotel.com.tw/eng/>

Day 3: Nantou – Chiayi (Jiāyì)



After breakfast, you will head to Chiayi and from there proceed to the **Alishan Forest Recreation Area** via the Alishan Highway. Because the Alishan area spreads across three different climate zones, it contains an incredible array of different plant species. During your visit you will see some of Alishan's most important sights. The **Alishan Sacred Tree**, which had three generations of tree sprouting from the same trunk, is thought to have been more than 3,000 years old when it fell in 1997; its trunk is still on display in the park. **Two Sisters Ponds**, one larger than the other like an older sister, are named after a legend about two aboriginal sisters who dove into the ponds after falling in love with the same man. Afterward, you will visit a tea center featuring Alishan's famous "High Mountain Tea," a famous kind of oolong tea grown only at elevations higher than 1,000 meters. High Mountain Tea is prized for its distinctive qualities, including its emerald-green color, sweet and mellow taste, thick and velvety texture, delicate aroma, and "reestepability."

Day 3 Attractions:

Alishan Forest Recreation Area (阿里山森林遊樂區, Ālǐshān Sēnlín Yóulè Qū)

Alishan Sacred Tree (阿里山神木, Ālǐshān Shénmù)

Two Sisters Ponds (姊妹潭, Zǐmèi Tán; often called 姐妹潭 Jiěmèi Tán)

Tea Exhibition Center (茶葉展示中心, Cháyè Zhǎnshì Zhōngxīn)

Chiayi Accommodations: **Wan Tai Hotel** 萬泰大飯店 or equivalent

<http://www.watchit.com.tw/wantai/>

Day 4: Chiayi – Kaohsiung (Gāoxióng)

After breakfast you will proceed to the **Lotus Lake Scenic Area**, whose main attraction is a lake that has long been famous for its lotus plants and stunning sunsets. There are numerous temples and other attractions around the lake, including the **Spring and Autumn Pavilions**, a pair of stunning palatial pagodas accompanied by a statue of the goddess Guanyin atop a colorful dragon. As evening approaches, you will head to the **Sizih Bay Scenic Area**, which features a beach, a park, and beautiful ocean views. Its main attraction, however, is the Baroque-style **British Consulate at Takao**, located halfway up a mountain. The consulate affords a spectacular view of the surrounding area, a natural panorama of ocean and sky blending imperceptibly together. In the evening you will then visit the bustling **Liuhe Night Market**, where you can sample some of Kaohsiung's famous local snacks and street food and haggle with the vendors over a great variety of goods.

Day 4 Attractions:

Lotus Lake Scenic Area (蓮池潭風景區, Liánchí Tán Fēngjǐng Qū)

Spring and Autumn Pavilions (春秋閣, Chūnqiū Gé)

Sizih Bay Scenic Area (西子灣風景區, Xīzi Wān Fēngjǐng Qū)

British Consulate at Takao (打狗英國領事館, Dǎgǒu Yīngguó Lǐngshìguǎn)

Liuhe Night Market (六合夜市, Liùhé Yèshì)

Kaohsiung Accommodations: **Wenpin Hotel** 文賓大飯店 or equivalent

<http://www.wenpin.com.tw/eng/>

Day 5: Kaohsiung – Origin

After breakfast you will be escorted to the Kaohsiung International Airport and given assistance with check-in procedures before boarding your flight back to your point of origin. *Depending on your departure time, additional activities and meals may be arranged for your last day in Taiwan.*

The tour will also include a few "shopping stops" at selected locations where you can buy local goods and special products like Alishan mountain tea and Taipei coral.



Tour Price: \$470 per person (for a group of 5 or more), \$540 per person (for a group of 4 or fewer)

China International Travel CA, Inc. cancellation policy: Notice of cancellation must be received by fax or mail; verbal notice only will not be considered sufficient. Please contact CIT to confirm that we have received your cancellation notice. A cancellation fee will be charged according to the following criteria:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: \$200 per person will be assessed.
- 45-59 days prior to departure: \$300 per person will be assessed.
- 30-44 days prior to departure: \$400 per person will be assessed.
- 15-29 days prior to departure: \$500 per person will be assessed.
- 3-14 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person will be assessed.
- Less than 3 days or nonappearance: 100% of total charge.

If tickets for any form of transportation (including, but not limited to, airline, cruise, or train) have already been issued or final confirmation has been received at time of cancellation, an additional penalty will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the company providing the transportation.