

# Taiwan

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Mandarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese Hokkien, Hakka, Formosan languages

**Population:** 23,500,000

**Currency:** New Taiwan Dollar (TWD)

**Area:** 36,000

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Taipei 101', 'writeup': 'A landmark skyscraper in Taipei, once the tallest building in the world, known for its unique design and observatory.'}
- {'name': 'Taroko Gorge', 'writeup': 'A stunning marble-walled canyon in Taroko National Park, famous for its natural beauty and hiking trails.'}
- {'name': 'Sun Moon Lake', 'writeup': "Taiwan's largest freshwater lake, known for its scenic views and cultural significance to indigenous peoples."}
- {'name': 'Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall', 'writeup': 'A national monument in Taipei dedicated to the former leader Chiang Kai-shek.'}
- {'name': 'Alishan National Scenic Area', 'writeup': 'A mountainous area famous for sunrise views, forest railway, and indigenous culture.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Tsai Ing-wen

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Lunar New Year', 'writeup': 'The most important traditional festival, celebrated with family reunions, feasts, and various customs.'}
- {'name': 'Dragon Boat Festival', 'writeup': 'A festival featuring dragon boat races and eating zongzi (sticky rice dumplings) to commemorate poet Qu Yuan.'}
- {'name': 'Mid-Autumn Festival', 'writeup': 'A harvest festival celebrated with mooncakes, lanterns, and family gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Taiwan Lantern Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event showcasing elaborate lantern displays and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Ghost Festival', 'writeup': 'A traditional Taoist and Buddhist festival honoring the spirits of the deceased.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Taiwanese cuisine is known for its diverse street food, night markets, and dishes such as beef noodle soup, bubble tea, oyster omelette, and stinky tofu, reflecting a blend of Chinese, indigenous, and Japanese influences.

## Brief History:

Taiwan has a complex history involving indigenous peoples, Dutch and Spanish colonization, Qing dynasty rule, Japanese occupation (1895-1945), and the Republic of China's government relocating there after 1949. It has developed into a democratic and economically advanced society.

**Important People:**

- Chiang Kai-shek - Former leader of the Republic of China
- Sun Yat-sen - Founding father of the Republic of China
- Tsai Ing-wen - Current President of Taiwan
- Lee Teng-hui - First democratically elected president of Taiwan
- Hou Hsiao-hsien - Renowned Taiwanese film director

**Current Conflicts:**

Taiwan faces ongoing political and military tensions with the People's Republic of China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory. Taiwan maintains de facto independence with its own government and military.

**Youtube Links:**

- Taiwan Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Taiwan
- History of Taiwan Explained
- Taiwanese Street Food Tour
- Understanding Taiwan-China Relations
- Taiwan's Culture and Traditions