



Taiwan Insights



Thursday 14th to Friday 29th November 2019

Taiwan Insights is a 16-day tour to the fascinatingly diverse island of Taiwan. Named Ilha Formosa, “beautiful island”, by 16th century Portuguese seafarers, it continues to live up to that description with monumental mountain ranges, lush tropical forests, dramatic sea cliffs and verdant agricultural lands. There is much to experience – natural beauty, fresh local cuisine, intriguing markets and the diverse cultures and history of Taiwan’s peoples, who have cultural ties and influences from many roots, including the fourteen Aboriginal tribes of Taiwan, China, Japan, and Europe. A comprehensive array of experiences coupled with our customary attention to detail and private coach touring will ensure you enjoy the best of Taiwan.

Day 1

Thursday 14th November – Sydney to Taipei

Mid-morning departure from Sydney to Taipei via Hong Kong flying Cathay Pacific. Arrive late evening at Taipei, where we are met by our local guide and transferred to our hotel. Taipei is the bustling, efficient, yet friendly capital city of Taiwan, with a population of about 7 million people. We stay three nights at The Grand Formosa Regent Hotel situated in the heart of downtown and close to some of the most fashionable shopping areas of Taipei.

Three nights at Grand Formosa Regent Hotel, Taipei.

Day 2

Friday 15th November – Taipei

City tour of Taipei, including Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, the Martyrs' Shrine for the guard changing ceremony and the National Palace Museum, which houses a wealth of treasures stretching from the Neolithic to over several thousand years of Chinese dynasties. After lunch at the San-his-tang Teahouse, we visit Longshan Temple, the Handicraft Centre and Taipei 101 Observatory, a 101-storey skyscraper in the heart of Taipei.



Day 3

Saturday 16th November – Kinmen Island

Morning flight to Kinmen Island located only 2km from mainland China. We explore the underground fortifications and learn of the history of this frontline territory of Taiwan at Jhaishan Tunnel, then visit Shueitou Traditional Village to see the Fujian-style architecture. After lunch we visit the Kinmen knife factory where knives are manufactured from spent armament casings. Return to Taipei in the late afternoon, with dinner and show at the See-Join Puppet Theatre Restaurant.

Day 4

Sunday 17th November – Taipei to Chiayi

Leaving behind Taipei, we head south along the densely-populated western corridor of Taiwan on the Taiwan High Speed Train, cruising at up to 300km/h. At Taichung, change pace to a regional train for Tianjhong, where we transfer to the Tea Home tea plantation for a guided tour of this organic farming enterprise and lunch. Afternoon travel to Chiayi City by our tour coach where we stay overnight.

Overnight at Nice Prince Hotel, Chiayi City.

Day 5

Monday 18th November – Chiayi to Alishan

Morning departure from Chiayi station on the Alishan Forest Railway, a narrow gauge steam train which climbs a twisting, zig-zagging route to the town of Fenqihu at approx. 1,400m above sea level. As we ascend, take in the stunning scenery as rich agricultural plains give way to forested mountain slopes and alpine vegetation. Our journey continues by coach to the resort town of Alishan at approx. 2,200m above sea level. Tonight's hotel is located above the clouds in the beautiful Alishan Forest Recreation Area with views of the central mountain range boasting 200 peaks above 3,000m elevation. In the afternoon you will have the opportunity for leisurely exploration of the surrounding ancient red cypress forests.

Overnight at Alishan House Hotel, Alishan.



Day 6

Tuesday 19th November – Alishan to Sun Moon Lake

Travel by our chartered coach via the scenic mountain road trip to the exquisite Sun Moon Lake. We stay two nights at the Hotel Del Lago perfectly situated on the shore of Sun Moon Lake, with direct access to the boardwalk extending several kilometres – ideal for a twilight or early morning stroll or cycle.

Two nights at Hotel Del Lago, Sun Moon Lake.

Day 7

Wednesday 20th November – Sun Moon Lake

A few steps to the shore to join our chartered cruise on Sun Moon Lake. Across the lake, we disembark for a cable car ride to the Formosan Aboriginal Cultural Village for a guided tour and lunch. The village showcases the cultures of several of the fourteen Taiwanese Aboriginal tribes. Meet representatives of the local tribespeople, many of whom are engaged in the production of craft and art work, and enjoy performances of songs and dances. Later we visit the town of Puli and the Guanghun Paper mill where paper is manufactured using traditional methods.

Day 8

Thursday 21st November – Sun Moon Lake to Kaohsiung

Depart Sun Moon Lake and travel to the Baliatus Renewal Workshop in Chiayi to see first-hand the work being performed in educating and assisting people with a disability. Lunch at the

workshop café with plenty of time to view the jewellery and craft workshops. Arrive at Kaohsiung in the late afternoon. After dinner, we take a cruise on the Love River, departing from the river pier across the road from our hotel.

Overnight at Ambassador Hotel, Kaohsiung.

Day 9

Friday 22nd November – Kaohsiung to Kenting

Morning chartered cruise on Kaohsiung Harbour, one of the world's busiest. The tour includes a short walking interlude to see the Ciji Lighthouse and Cihou Fort on Ciji Island, before returning on a regular ferry. Lunch at the historic former British Consulate which overlooks the harbour and city. Afternoon travel by coach to Kenting.

Two nights at Chateau Beach Resort, Kenting.

Day 10

Saturday 23rd November – Kenting

We spend the day touring Kenting National Park, Taiwan's first, which encompasses the Hengchun peninsula at the southern tip of Taiwan. A guide from the National Park Authority will introduce us to the special features of the park and accompany us during the day, explaining the natural and historical aspects of the area.

Day 11

Sunday 24th November – Kenting to Taitung

Depart Kenting for Taitung. We travel via secondary roads along the spectacular and remote eastern coastline. Lunch at Taitung and afternoon visit to an archaeological dig site. Check in to our hotel situated in the nearby mountains at Chipen and featuring hot spring baths and pools.

Overnight at Hotel Royal Chihpen, Chipen.

Day 12

Monday 25th November – Taitung to Hualien

Continuing along the east coast, we travel the scenic coast road to Sansiantai, famous for its graceful arched Dragon Bridge leading to a small island, and then to the Mataian Wetlands for lunch and a guided tour of the wetlands. Our guide is a member of the Ami people who are the custodians of this area, and will talk to us about Ami cultural practices and way of life.

Overnight at Quality Inn Hualien, Hualien.



Day 13

Tuesday 26th November – Hualien to Taroko Gorge

Hualien is famous for its limestone and marble production industry. This morning we visit a marble factory, then travel a short distance to the Taroko Gorge, the spectacular centrepiece of the 600km² Taroko National Park. At the National Park Visitor Centre we will have an introductory audio visual presentation of the monumental geological features of the park. Our day includes several stops at lookouts, short walks and lunch at the Leader Village restaurant, which features cuisine of the Taroko people. We spend two nights at Taroko, staying in luxury river-view suites.

Two nights at Silk's Place Hotel, Taroko Gorge.



Day 14

Wednesday 27th November – Taroko Gorge

A relaxing day in one of the most stunning places in Taiwan. Our hotel is located in a picturesque position on the banks of Taroko Gorge. Explore less-trodden paths within the Taroko National Park or strike out to the nearby village of Tiansiang. Or relax at our beautiful hotel and enjoy its facilities, like the indoor and outdoor pools and spa.

Day 15

Thursday 28th November – Taroko Gorge to Sydney

Morning departure by our coach to Taipei along the spectacular Pacific coastline, passing beside the Cingshui Cliffs. We make several stops to drink in the view before arriving back in Taipei for lunch. Late afternoon flight to Sydney via Hong Kong.

Day 16

Friday 29th November - arrive Sydney

Arrive in Sydney mid morning.

About Insights Tours

Insights Tours is a tour company operated by Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide passengers with spacious and ample accommodation. Our philosophy is to provide a tour with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. Insights Tours engages our own guides to ensure that our passengers have the best insight into the location being visited.

Passenger numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are taken care of.

If you would like details or assistance with any booking, please contact Paul:

Telephone: (61) 02 4267 2535 Facsimile: (61) 02 4267 5530

Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180

Thirroul NSW 2515

In person (by appointment): 14 Allenby Parade, Bulli

General Information & Booking Conditions

Cost

The tour cost is AUD 10,550 per person on a twin share basis.

Tour cost includes:

- return economy class air travel between Sydney and Taipei with Cathay Pacific. Other cities available, please just ask.
- return economy class air travel between Taipei and Kinmen Island
- accommodation on a twin share basis in first class hotels for 14 nights
- reserved seat on the Taiwan High Speed train on day 4
- economy class seats on Taiwan Regional Railway's train on day 4
- exclusive chartered train travel on Alishan Mountain Railway train on day 5
- private chartered cruise on Sun Moon Lake and on Kaohsiung Harbour
- seats on the Love River cruise
- all road transport by private chartered coach
- all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places specified in the itinerary
- all meals
- all taxes and all gratuities
- services of Insights Tours' escort throughout the tour
- complimentary Insights Tours refillable water bottle

Additional costs

drinks, travel insurance and items of a personal nature

any other cost not included in tour cost

Single accommodation

As always, we negotiate the best possible tariff for our single guests and we pass on only the direct additional costs. The single supplement is AUD 2,990. If you wish to stay in other than a River Suite on days 13 and 14 we can reduce this supplement.

Booking

This tour is for a maximum of 14 guests. To secure your place on the tour, please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Deposit is AUD 1000 per person, payable at time of booking.

The balance is due no later than Monday 16th September, 2019.

Payment may be made by cheque or direct transfer.

Cancellation Policy

For cancellations prior to or on Monday 16th September 2019 are subject to a cancellation fee of \$500 per person.

Cancellations after Monday 16th September, 2019 forfeit the total tariff. That is, there is no refund.

Viability of Tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Wednesday 18th September 2019 and we will refund in full any money paid.

In the event of the Australian dollar falling below our nominated exchange rate threshold before the due date of the final balance, we will write to you and advise of any required supplement.

Changes to Itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Insurance

Insights Tours accepts your booking only on the proviso that you have comprehensive travel insurance. It must cover cancellation fees, costs incurred due to delays, medical assistance, repatriation and lost luggage. We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance and can assist with arranging your insurance.

Health & Medical

Insights Tours recommends that to fully enjoy this tour you should be comfortable walking up to 1.5km. Most of the walking will be in national parks on well formed paths, in a tea plantation and in cities and towns.

Visas

Australian passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Taiwan however, passports must be valid for at least 6 months ie to 14th May 2020. If you will be travelling on other than an Australian passport, please confer with us when you book.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage per person. Maximum luggage weight is 23kgs per person for checked luggage and 7kgs for hand luggage.

Money

Taiwan Dollars are the official currency. Credit cards are widely accepted.

Guides

Insights Tours has engaged licensed expert, English-speaking guides for all guided touring throughout the itinerary.

Water

Insights Tours provides complimentary bottled water throughout the tour.

Trains

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of a one carriage train on the Alishan Mountain Railway. This train will afford you a memorable, special and comfortable experience. Guest numbers are limited to 14 to ensure a spacious and enjoyable experience. For your comfort there is a toilet on board and opening windows.

On day 4 we travel on the Taiwan High Speed Train and a Taiwan Railways regional train. All trains are air conditioned and have a toilet on board. We will have reserved seats on the High Speed Train.

Coach

Insights Tours has chartered an air-conditioned coach for all road travel and transfers. The seating capacity of the coach will generally be a minimum of 20 seats to ensure spacious and comfortable travelling conditions.

Tour Escort

As with all Insights Tours' itineraries, this tour is fully escorted. Your tour escort will be John Tuckerman who is there to ensure that all of the pesky administrative and operational aspects of the tour are fulfilled and that the tour runs as smoothly as possible.

Booking Form

Taiwan Insights

14th to 29th November, 2019

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Name (exactly as on passport)		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		
Passport Details		
Passport #		
Date of Birth		
Expiry Date		
Nationality		
Emergency Contact Person & Telephone		
Any special requirements or requests (especially dietary)		
Room type (please indicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Twin (2 beds) <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 large bed) <input type="checkbox"/> Single supplement (additional \$1,690)	
Deposit <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed - Please make cheques payable to "Insights Tours" - or - <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer/direct deposit Account Name: Insights Tours Client Travel Account BSB: 062607 Account Number: 10131313		

I/we acknowledge the terms and conditions of booking

Signature/s

Guest 1

Guest 2

Please return to: Insights Tours
 PO Box 180
 THIRROUL NSW 2515
 Facsimile: +61 2 42 675530