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# Taiwan (Bradt Travel Guides)



## Synopsis

Taiwan is one of the most crowded countries on Earth but beyond the ocean of people and vehicles, far from the neon and noise that confronts new arrivals, there's an island of breathtaking mountain vistas, bird-rich forests and quaint villages where folk religion thrives. This is the guide for individuals who want more than the treasures of the National Palace Museum, the beaches of Kending and the well-beaten trails of Alishan. Whether you aim to rough it on mountain peaks, observe age-old rituals in tucked-away temples or wallow in five-star comfort, Bradt's Taiwan will lead you on an unforgettable journey through Asia's newest destination.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Recommended reading Wanderlust An insightful and useful addition to the ever-expanding library of publications on the island Taiwan today.tw

Hike deep into Yushan National Park on colonial-era trails Don your hard hat and brave the riotous Beehive Fireworks Festival Spot some of Taiwan's 25+ endemic birds among the forested hills of Wulai Look out for nesting green turtles on the Penghu Islands Get around with ease: Chinese site names and comprehensive language guide included Long famed for its economic triumphs, Taiwan's abundant natural attractions have tended to fly under the

radar. Yet this diminutive country more than lives up to its older name of Ilha Formosa, or Beautiful Island. Its lofty mountains, marble-walled hot springs, lunar badlands and butterfly-thronged forests all appear to have come straight from a Chinese scroll painting. And then there's the human drama, from the fashionable denizens of pulsating Taipei to the aboriginal tribes who keep ancient traditions alive and those performing poignant rituals at exquisite folk shrines up and down the land. Packed with background information on Taiwan's rich history and culture and invaluable practical advice, this guide remains the essential choice for the curious visitor. Journalist Steven Crook first visited Taiwan in 1991 and never left. He resides full-time in Tainan City and writes about the country for international magazines and newspapers.

Like the other Bradt guides, Bradt Taiwan (2nd ed.) uncovers a country about which travellers have difficulty finding reliable information, and shines a light on the parts of that country that might also get little press. With a deep knowledge of the complicated history and culture of the island, the author makes it easy for a visitor to seek out the really special parts of Taiwan, many of which (even in Taipei) are not centrally-located or widely promoted. For example, the National Palace Museum, a repository for the treasures that came from Beijing's Forbidden City, finds itself a bus ride from a suburban MRT station in Taipei, but the guide devotes a great deal of space to the museum and plenty of instructions on how to get there. As well, the multitude of natural attractions on the island are many, and they're spread far and wide, and the guide resists the temptation to focus on only the big ticket national parks. The inclusion of Chinese characters and pinyin for the placenames (which, like Taipei and Taichung often have names with alternative Romanization) is also a big help as, in the places where little English is spoken, the book can be shown to helpful locals when looking for a destination.

This is an excellent guide. I have used it in Taiwan and it was extremely helpful. Lots of useful tips and suggestions on where to go (e.g., valleys of butterflies).

Well organized information, good background & set up /framework for some of the ambiguities that exist, and clearly written by people who love the locale! I'm planning a trip to Taiwan this fall and this is the best - most comprehensive guide I was able to find. May post again post-travel to confirm / comment.

Excellent travel guide well written. I went on a 15 trip to Taiwan (what a great place) and used this guide. Good descriptions, prices were almost spot on. Was a good companion for my trip. Highly recommended.

Very helpful comprehensive information. Our island visit was enhanced by the details and observations that helped us direct our time and activities to great rewards. Good book, thank you Steven.

The seller sold product as promised and sent it speedily. There was just one thing I thought was missing from this guide- a map of the whole Island.

As a Taiwanese, I come to learn my county better and more by reading this travel guide written by the author, an on-site expatriate for over 10 years! I bought 1st edition early 2013 mainly attracted by printed Chinese character (translation) for most of the destinations introduced in the book. Now in 2nd edition, this feature, not found in any other Taiwan travel guides, even expands to cover almost all the places in the book which is a real help to foreign tourists. When traveling around in Taiwan, just show the Chinese place name to local people with a smile and it gets your way through. This edition, like 1st, by-area chapters are very well organized especially Hakka Country is singled out (as a chapter) and aboriginal Taiwan is highlighted where necessary. And 2nd edition paragraphing within each chapter has been refined and in many places draw right focus such as Wulai, an Atayal indigenous district in New Taipei City; Sanyi, Taiwan's foremost woodcarving center; Meinong, a Hakka culture township in Kaohsiung. The Getting There, Away & Around including public transport, Where to Eat & Stay information to each destination, big or small are all included in very detail than one can expect. And if you are interested in museums, local temples and shrines, this guide provides best-of-all information ever seen. Finally, and not the least, the box information provided by guest contributors and author himself are exceptional good and appealing, opening extra windows and gaining insight or taking a close-up perspective at this county in various area. This 2nd edition Bradt's Taiwan is definitely the most in-depth and practical field travel guide for exploring Taiwan. Highly recommended.

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