

The Islands of Taiwan Tour

Not only is Taiwan a beautiful island, but there are many smaller islands that are also part of Taiwan. On this tour we will visit four islands of Taiwan: Kinmen, Penghu, Lanyu (Orchid), and Ludao (Green) Island. We will fly to the islands of Kinmen and Penghu, and we will take ferries to Lanyu and Ludao. There will be opportunities to see pelagic birds along the ferry routes. Both Lanyu and Ludao have great snorkeling and swimming.

- **Group Size:** 10 travelers plus guides
- **Trip Length:** 19 days
- **Rates** Rate per person = Price is \$6,750 per person for double occupancy with an additional \$1,915 for single occupancy.
- **Rates include:** Domestic transfers and travel, lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, scheduled group tours, park entrance fees and basic travel insurance.
- **Not included:** International airfare, customs & immigration fees and visas, alcohol, snacks in between meals, trip cancellation insurance.
- **Adventure level:** Easy

Special offer: Included with your trip (one per room) is a copy of the field guide "Birds of Taiwan", by Wild Bird Society of Taipei. You will receive this when you reserve your trip so you will have time to study the beautiful birds of Taiwan.

Basic Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Taiwan

Flights are overnight with arrival on day one. Flights arrive in Taipei at the Taoyuan International Airport (TPE), and you will be greeted at the airport and shuttled to the [Rido Hotel](#) in the Da'an neighborhood in Taipei, where we will spend 2-nights. Just across the street from the hotel is Da'an Park, which is a great place for walking and viewing local birds such as the Taiwan Barbet, Common Kingfisher, Black Drongo, Malayan Night-Heron, Spotted Dove, Grey Treepie, Black Bulbul, Crested Goshawk, Light-vented Bulbul, Black Bulbul, and Swinhoe's White-eye.

Day 2: Taipei

Taipei is full of wonderful parks for walking and birding; it also has great museums and monuments. In the morning we will visit the Taipei Botanical Gardens and here we will find the endemic, Black-necked Scimitar Babbler. The Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Park has beautiful gardens and birds: Brown Shrike, Oriental Turtle Dove, Eurasian Magpie, Black Bulbul, Pale Thrush, Asian Glossy Starling, and Black-collared Starling. And directly across the street from our hotel is Da'an Park, which has a bird list of 165 species. Evergreen Shipping has a very impressive Maritime Museum, one of the best in the world, and we usually have lunch there.

Day 3: Hualien

From Taipei it is a 3-hour drive down the spectacular east coast of Taiwan to the city of Hualien. We will take our time with numerous stops along the way for birding and viewing the Pacific scenery. Hualien is located at the base of Taroko Gorge National Park. We will be staying at the Dream House B&B for 1-night. This small hotel is

located in a wooded area where we see numerous bird species including the Slaty-legged Crane, White-bellied Green Pigeon, and the Maroon Oriole.

Day 4: Green Island

In the morning we will bird the property at our hotel and after breakfast continue down the coast. From Hualien, it is 3-hour drive down the coastal city of Taitung, where we will be catching the 1:30pm ferry out to Green island (Ludao). It is a 1-hour ferry ride, and we will stay for 2-nights on the island.

Day 5: Green Island

A full day birding Green Island, with optional activities such as diving and snorkeling. Green Island was once home to a prison colony for political prisoners from the 1940's until the 1980's. Now Green Island is a tourist destination because of its beautiful landscape, water activities, and birds. Please check the Taiwan web page section for the Islands Tour for links to the eBird hot spot for this island.

Day 6: Houbihu

We will be taking the morning ferry (1-hour) back the city of Taitung. From there it is a 2-hour drive to the town of Houbihu where we will spend 1-night. This route will take us through Kenting National Park, and we will have time for birding along the way.

Day 7: Orchid Island

We will be taking the morning ferry out to Orchid Island (Lanyu). It is a 4-hour ferry ride with opportunities to view many different species of pelagic birds. We will be staying at a hotel close to the ferry terminal for 2-nights. Please check the Taiwan web page section for the Islands Tour for links to the eBird hot spot for this island.

Day 8: Orchid Island

A full day of birding with options for snorkeling and diving. Orchid Island is know for its very clear water and marine life. The offshore water has good conditions for both beginner and experienced snorkelers and divers. The island is also known for its unique Tao culture and stunning natural scenery.

Day 9: Kaohsiung

From Orchid Island, we will be taking the morning ferry back to the mainland (4-hours), with more opportunities to see pelagic birds. From the ferry terminal in Houbihu, it is a 2-hour drive to the Kaohsiung, where we will stay at a hotel close to the airport for 1-night. There will be a few roadside stops for birding.

Day 10: Kinmen

Morning flight from Kaohsiung International Airport (KHH) to the Kinmen Island Airport (KNH). It is a 1-hour flight. We will spend 3- nights on the island of Kinmen. Please check the Taiwan web page section for the Islands Tour for links to the eBird hot spot for this island.

Day 11: Kinmen

Kinmen is a large island off the coast of China but is governed by Taiwan. It is Taiwan's largest island with an area of 55 sq. miles. We will have two full days of birding Kinmen

Day 12: Kinmen

Our second full day of birding Kinmen. Besides birding, there are numerous historic and cultural sites to see as well. On Kinmen there will not be any opportunities for water activities. Everything we do will be land based.

Day 13: Penghu

On this day we will fly from Kinmen to Penghu Island, via a connecting flight in Kaohsiung. The Pescadores Islands are an archipelago of 90 islands and islets in the Taiwan Strait, situated about 25 miles off the coast of western Taiwan. The archipelago collectively forms Penghu County, the smallest county of Taiwan. Fishing and tourism are the main industries. We will spend 3-nights on the island of Penghu.

Day 14: Penghu

We will have two full days of birding Penghu. The Penghu National Scenic Area was established in the early 1990s, comprising most of the islands and islets of the archipelago. Please check the Taiwan web page section for the Islands Tour for links to the eBird hot spot for this island.

Day 15: Penghu

Our second full day of birding Penghu. The main area of Penghu consists of four islands connected by roads and bridges. There are several very nice bird reserves here. Penghu is also known for its beautiful beaches and marine life and is a popular destination for snorkeling and swimming as well. There are designated dive sites with clear waters, coral reefs, and numerous marine species, including sea turtles.

Day 16: Budai

We will be taking the morning boat from Penghu to the fishing village of Budai. It is a 1.5 ferry ride, and we will stay in Budai for 2-nights. Budai is a fun town. It is a fishing village, where they also farm oysters. There are great restaurants here and we always have a great time after a full day of birding. Here we will see terns and gulls by the thousands: Black-headed Gulls, White-winged Terns, Whiskered Terns, and Caspian Terns. The southwest coast is also an important wintering ground for thousands of shorebirds and vagrants and rarities can often be found as well.

Day 17: Budai

The area of Budai is along the southeastern coast of Taiwan and is a bird watchers paradise with numerous marshes, reserves, canals, and salt flats for viewing birds. The gem of them all is the Black-faced Spoonbill Reserve where numerous other species can be seen including Sacred Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill, and many species of shore birds. The activity choices for the day are birding and/or hiking. In the evening near the oyster farms, sometimes as many as 20,000 whiskered terns come to roost and it is an amazing site to watch as the sun sets. Budai is close to several significant historical and cultural areas. The day will be spent viewing birds and getting to know the Budai and Beimen townships. A few of our favorite shore birds that we see are Cinnamon Bittern, Yellow Bittern, Greater Painted Snipe, and thousands of shorebirds

Day 18: Taoyuan

The Nankunshen Temple, which is one of the largest temples in Taiwan, is located just outside the village of Beimen. There will be time for birding and visiting temples. Many of the temples in Taiwan are very elaborate Taoist Temples. After a morning of birding

the Budai wetlands, we will travel to the city of Chiayi where we will take the High Speed Rail (185 mph) to the Taoyuan International Airport (TPE). We will stay at a hotel close to the airport for our last night.

Day 19: Fly Home

There will be a shuttle to the airport for flights home.