

Northern Taiwan

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Hsinchu	150
Shei-pa National Park	158

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Taiyuan Tea House (p122)
- ➔ Duanchunzhen Beef Noodles (p153)
- ➔ Temple Duck Rice (p153)
- ➔ Aux Cimes de la Fontaine (p165)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Wu Fan Keng Gongyuan Bao (p138)
- ➔ Louzicuo Guesthouse (p141)
- ➔ Rising Sun Surf Inn (p146)
- ➔ Magic World Country House (p133)

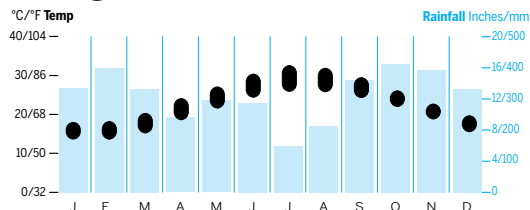
Why Go?

For many travellers, heading outside Taipei into the north gives them their first taste of how big this little island is. It's not just that there are mountains reaching up to 3886m. It's that those mountains – and their valleys and meadows – seem near endless, and that around every corner is a new hot-spring village, forest reserve or indigenous hamlet.

There's generally good transport across the north, but for those who can manage it, the cycling is world class, with routes along coastlines, through rural townships, and over cross-island highways. But remember: the north is a big place. While the blue magpie can fly those few kilometres in no time, the winding road takes a bit longer.

When to Go

Keelung



Apr Youtong flowers in bloom.

Sep–Dec Best months for cycling and hiking.

Dec Start of the hot-spring season.



Northern Taiwan Highlights

- 1 Keelung Ghost Festival** (p137) Taking part in the vibrant ceremonies and parades.
- 2 Jiufen & Jinguashi** (p136) Tapping the richness of the area's mining heritage.
- 3 Sandiaoling Waterfall Trail** (p139) Having your spirits lifted by the waterfall's cascading curtains.
- 4 Minquan Old Street** (p124) Letting the shops and buildings take you back a hundred years in Sansia.
- 5 Wulai** (p127) Swimming and river tracing in the jungle.
- 6 Juming Museum** (p134) Enjoying the works of Taiwan's master sculptor in a natural setting.
- 7 North Cross-Island Highway** (p124) Skirting coast and cliffs on two wheels.
- 8 Yingge** (p123) Learning about ceramics, then shopping for them (or simply browsing).
- 9 Holy Ridge** (p159) Hiking for days along vertiginous paths in Shei-pa National Park.