

Taipei

02 / POP 2.7 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Yongkang Beef Noodles (p89)
- ➔ RAW (p91)
- ➔ Thai Food (p88)
- ➔ Addiction Aquatic Development (p91)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Attic (p80)
- ➔ Jianshan Hotel (p84)
- ➔ three little birds (p81)
- ➔ Eslite Hotel (p87)

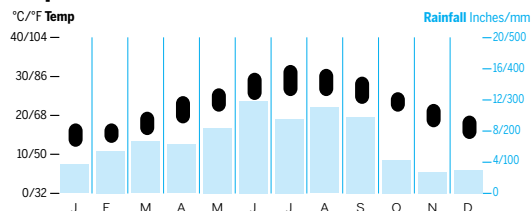
Why Go?

For a 300-year-old city, Taipei has been having a very late coming-of-age party. But then again, this unhurried but vibrant capital has taken a while to become comfortable in its own skin. With Chinese, Japanese and Western influences in its food, culture, folk arts and architecture, Taipei has finally decided that it's a mix, and all the better for it.

As with the multifarious street food, the traveller is advised to go for the *xiao chi* (little snacks) in everything. Day trips are particularly delicious, and a quick MRT ride takes you to tea fields, hot springs, river parks, and colonial towns backed by a mountainous national park. With-in Taipei don't miss the Minnan-style temples beautified with unique decorative arts, the heritage lanes turned art villages, and gourmet cafe and boutique centres, the buzzing neon neighbourhoods or the nightlife scene, growing in reputation yearly.

When to Go

Taipei



Jan & Feb The weeks bracketing the Lunar New Year are a great time to visit.

Jun–Sep Fresh tropical fruits are readily available.

Oct–Dec The perfect time to visit, with the heat gone and the chill yet to begin.



Taipei Highlights

1 National Palace Museum (p71) Enjoying an art legacy spanning millennia.

2 Xiahai City God Temple (p69) Feeling the spirituality, and praying to the matchmaker god.

3 Dihua St (p67) Seeing the unique architecture of Taipei's Japanese heritage.

4 2-28 Peace Memorial Park (p59) Pausing and contemplating history under shady, old trees.

5 Fong Da Coffee (p93) Savouring a rich slice of Taipei's coffee culture.

6 Tonghua Night Market (p100) Jostling with the locals for mouthfuls of yum.

7 Water Moon Tea House (p95) Sipping local tea and learning how to steep leaves.

8 National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine (p69) Seeing the pomp and pageantry at the changing of the guards.

9 Taipei 101 (p75) Touching the sky from the top of Asia's tallest building.