

Taiwan's Islands

Includes ➔

Kinmen.....	286
Kincheng.....	288
Little Kinmen.....	295
Matsu.....	295
Beigan.....	297
Nangan.....	298
Penghu Islands.....	302
Makung.....	302
Lanyu.....	313
Green Island.....	317

Why Go?

Taiwan's outlying islands have yet to give in to mass tourism. There's plenty to discover off the grid, from unspoiled golden-sand beaches to secluded mountain trails and coves where you'll see more wildlife than other travellers.

Kinmen and Matsu, lying in the Taiwan Strait, have preserved some of the country's oldest villages and a rich legacy of Cold War struggles that saw the islands turned into battlefields. Today it's also a twitcher's dreamland. Lanyu, Taiwan's furthest outpost, combines a volcanic landscape with the deep charms of an indigenous people living off the sea.

In Green Island and Penghu, divers and beach-lovers will find much to like about the perfect sand beaches, pristine waters and coral reefs. Each location has a top draw you won't find anywhere else: Green Island boasts one of the world's rarest seawater hot springs, while Penghu is Asia's top windsurfing destination.

Best Places to Eat

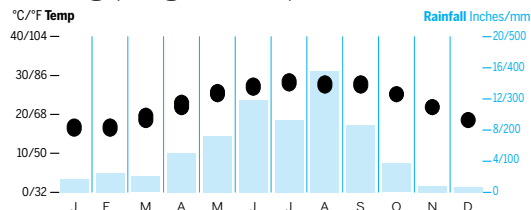
- ➔ Jindaodi Snack Shop (p294)
- ➔ Blue Fish (p316)
- ➔ Ching-Shin Seafood (p312)
- ➔ Pumpkin Noodles (p307)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Green 520 (p319)
- ➔ Piano Piano B&B (p294)
- ➔ Penghu Sunrise B&B (p311)
- ➔ Zhongyang Guesthouse (p306)
- ➔ Blue Ocean House (p315)

When to Go

Makung (Penghu Island)



Mar–May Flying Fish Festival on Lanyu, the most important yearly event for the Tao people.

Apr Welcoming the City God parade on Kinmen, a vibrant pilgrimage.

Sep–Mar World-class windsurfing around Penghu.



Taiwan's Islands Highlights

1 Taiwan's Ninth National Park (p312) Being swept away by the stark beauty of the islets of Taiwan's latest national park.

2 Matsu (p298) Meeting the blue algae lights that inspired a scene in Ang Lee's *Life of Pi*.

3 Lanyu (p313) Feasting on all manner of marine exotica, and having a taste of the old seafaring way of life.

4 Huazhai Traditional Settlement (p312) Visiting ancient villages, where Chinese traditions meet basalt and coral.

5 Kinmen (p286) Wandering among the

scenic remains of the Cold War between the Chinese communists and Nationalists.

6 Green Island (p317) Diving the dreamy waters, home to more than 200 species of coral.

7 Penghu (p302) Snorkelling or windsurfing in this archipelago of almost 100 islands.