



# Taiwan's Islands

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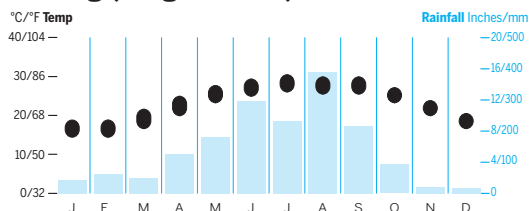
## Why Go?

To get off the beaten path, that's why. And be rewarded for it. Taiwan's outer islands are as chock-full of culture, history, and scenic eye candy as you're going to find in East Asia. Volcanic Lanyu is Taiwan's furthest outpost, both geographically and culturally, and combines a fantastical landscape with the deep charms of an indigenous people living off the sea. Kinmen and Matsu, lying in the Taiwan Strait, are a twitcher's dreamland, and boast some of the country's oldest traditional villages and festivals. They also offer a superb window into the Cold War struggles that saw the island groups turned into frontline battlefields.

Green Island and Penghu appeal to the young set looking for perfect sand beaches, coral reefs and a bit of nightlife. Each has a top draw you won't find anywhere else: for Green Island, one of the world's rarest seawater hot springs; for Penghu, Asia's top windsurfing destination.

## When to Go

### Makung (Penghu Island)



## Best Places to Eat

- » Hung Lou (p278)
- » Leemo's Shop (p288)
- » Good Friend Vegetarian House (p296)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Penghu Sunrise B&B (p300)
- » Enhui Mingsu Zijia (p304)
- » Shuitiaogetou (p283)
- » Coast Hotel (p288)

**March–May** Flying Fish Festival on Lanyu, the most important yearly event for Yami people.

**April** Welcoming the City God parade on Kinmen, a vibrant pilgrimage with unique rites and festivities.

**September–March** World-class windsurfing around Penghu. September/October are best for beginners.



## Taiwan's Islands Highlights

- 1 Sleep in a traditional, and lovingly restored, Fujian-style village in **Matsu** (p284) or **Kinmen** (p274)
- 2 Soak in **Chaojih Hot Springs** (p308), a rare seawater spring just off the beach on Green Island
- 3 Spend a few days living in a Yami family home on **Lanyu**

- (p301) for a glimpse at a traditional seafaring way of life
- 4 Bird-, butterfly- and deer-watch in the parks and on the ponds and beaches of Taiwan's islands
  - 5 Temple-hop and windsurf on **Penghu** (p291), a windswept archipelago of almost 100 islands

- 6 Snorkel the pristine reefs off **Green Island** (p306), home to more than 200 species of coral
- 7 Witness the historical remains of the Cold War between the Chinese communists and nationalists, on **Kinmen** (p274)