



Taroko National Park & the East Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Dou Sang (p162)
- » Leader Village Taroko (p170)
- » Cifadahan Cafe (p178)
- » Mabanai (p186)

Best Places to Stay

- » Amigos (p161)
- » Rose Stone (p161)
- » Taitung Sea Art Hostel (Motherland; p174)
- » Leader Village Taroko (p170)
- » Sea Fan Guesthouse (p172)
- » Wisdom Garden (p179)

Why Go?

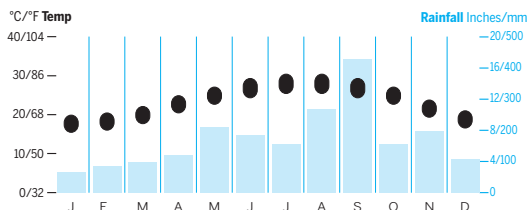
Much is made of the old Portuguese name for Taiwan, Ilha Formosa, which translates as 'the beautiful isle', but it's this part of the country that they gave it to, and it's this part to which it still applies best.

The eastern landscape is dominated by towering sea cliffs and marble gorges, as well as picture-perfect rice fields and wooded mountain ranges. There are no bad views here, and if you occasionally spot a worried look on a traveller's face, it means 'I hope they don't ever ruin the east'.

The east is Taiwan's premier outdoor playground, and cyclists in particular have discovered an ideal environment combining knockout scenery, good roads and plenty of cosy little B&Bs. Others have found that the high concentration of indigenous people gives the region an appealing distinction – and a less manic vibe than that of the west. Just look at the top speed limit: 70km/h! You don't rush through the east; you savour it.

When to Go

Hualien



January Good time for beating the crowds at Taroko National Park.

July–August Aboriginal festivals all summer long.

September–December The best months for biking.



Highlights

- 1 Hike ancient hunting trails and patrol routes in **Taroko Gorge** (p166)
- 2 Cycle down the winding coastline on **Highway 11** (p171)
- 3 Photograph colourful fields of orange day lilies on **Sixty Stone Mountain** (p181)
- 4 Swim in pools of crystal-blue water in **Mugu River Gorge** (p176)
- 5 Visit the wetland classroom of **Mataian** (p178)
- 6 See monkeys and barking deer in a banyan forest in **Chihpen (Zhiben) Forest Recreation Area** (p188)
- 7 Retrace history and watch nature on the **Walami Trail** (p180)
- 8 Check out a thriving local music scene at **Dulan Sugar Factory** (p173)