



Taiwan's Islands

Includes ➔

Kinmen	281
Kincheng (Jincheng)	283
Little Kinmen (Liehyu Island)	289
Matsu	290
Nangan	291
Beigan	296
Penghu	298
Makung (Magong)	300
Outer Islands	307
Lanyu	308
Green Island	313

Best Wildlife Spots

- ➔ Hungtuo Eco-Education Trail (p310), Lanyu
- ➔ Across Mountain Trail (p314), Green Island
- ➔ Lake Tai (p288), Kinmen

Best Village Homestays

- ➔ Qin Inn (p288)
- ➔ Banli Dazhai Homestay (p297)
- ➔ Erkan B&B (p307)

Why Go?

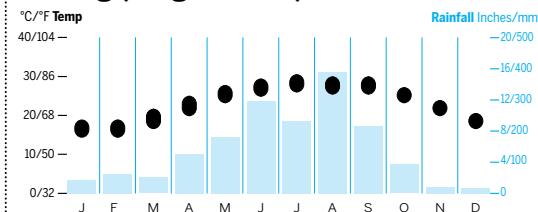
Taiwan's outlying islands have yet to give in to mass tourism. There's plenty to discover off the grid, from unspoiled golden-sand beaches to secluded mountain trails and coves where you'll see more wildlife than other travellers.

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.

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 Sleep in a lovingly restored traditional Fujian-style village in **Matsu** (p290) or **Kinmen** (p281).

2 Indulge yourself in **Chaojih Hot Springs** (p314), a rare seawater spring just off the beach on Green Island.

3 Absorb the traditional seafaring way of life by

spending a few days in a Tao family home on **Lanyu** (p308).

4 Bird-, butterfly- and deer-watch in the parks and on the ponds and beaches of Taiwan's islands.

5 Windsurf in **Penghu** (p298), a windswept archipelago of almost 100 islands.

6 Dive the dreamy waters of **Green Island** (p313), home to more than 200 species of coral.

7 Delve into the remains of the Cold War between the Chinese communists and Nationalists, on **Kinmen** (p281).