



# Northern Taiwan

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## Best Hikes

- ➔ Huangdi Dian
- ➔ Caoling Historic Trail
- ➔ Pingxi Crag (p130)
- ➔ Sandiaoling Waterfall Trail (p130)
- ➔ Wuliao Jian (p136)

## Best Small Museums

- ➔ Yingge Ceramics Museum (p133)
- ➔ National Centre of Traditional Arts (p147)
- ➔ Guqifeng (p159)
- ➔ Juming Museum (p136)
- ➔ Jiufen Kite Museum (p141)

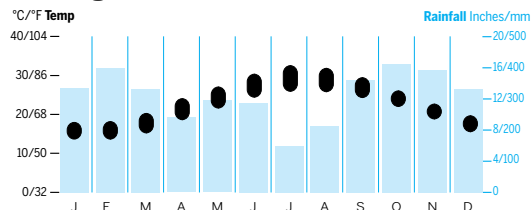
## Why Go?

For many travellers, heading outside Taipei into the north gives them their first taste of how big this little island is. It's not just that there are mountains reaching 3886m, offering hikes along such enticingly named trails as the Holy Ridge. It's that those mountains, and their valleys and meadows, seem near endless and around every corner is a new hot-spring village, forest reserve, aboriginal hamlet, or a town devoted to a traditional industry such as pottery, glass, tea or woodcarving.

There's generally good transport across the north but if you can manage it, cycling is world class, with routes along coastlines, rivers, through rural townships, and over cross-island highways. But remember: the north is a big place. While the blue magpie can fly those few kilometres in no time, the winding road takes a bit longer.

## When to Go

### Keelung



**Apr** Youtong flow-ers in bloom.

**Sep-Dec** Best months for cycling and hiking.

**Dec** Start of the hot-spring season.

## EAST CHINA SEA



## Northern Taiwan Highlights

- 1 Explore the heritage-rich mining villages of **Jiufen** and **Jinguashi** (p137).
- 2 Hike, swim and cycle under a jungle canopy in **Wulai** (p124).
- 3 View the work of Taiwan's master carver at the **Juming Museum** (p136).
- 4 Cycle routes all over the north, including the **North Cross-Island Highway** (p149).
- 5 Marvel at the private collection or art and curios at Guqifeng (p159) in **Hsinchu**.
- 6 Soak in top-quality hot-spring water at Sunrise Hot Spring Hotel (p166) after hiking in **Taian**.
- 7 Hike for days along the **Holy Ridge** (p157) in Sheipa National Park.
- 8 Revel in the beauty of the Snow Mountain foothills at **Nanzhuang** (p163).
- 9 Explore frontier villages and endless waterfalls on the **Pingxi Branch Rail Line** (p129).