



Taipei

02 / POP 2.6 MILLION

Includes ➔

| | |
|---|-----|
| Tamsui (Danshui) . . . | 106 |
| Beitou | 111 |
| Yangmingshan National Park | 114 |
| Guandu | 117 |
| Taipei Zoo | 117 |
| Maokong | 117 |
| Bitan | 120 |

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Yongkang Beef Noodles (p90)
- ➔ Ningxia Night Market (p91)
- ➔ Addiction Aquatic Development (p95)
- ➔ Drunken Monkey (p89)
- ➔ Shenkeng Old Street (p87)

Best Small Sight

- ➔ Miniatures Museum of Taiwan (p73)
- ➔ Treasure Hill (p65)
- ➔ Land Bank Exhibition Hall (p59)
- ➔ National Museum of History (p64)
- ➔ Formosa Vintage Cafe (p63)

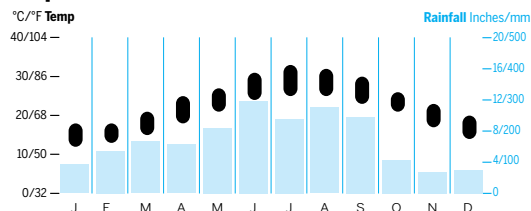
Why Go?

For a 300-year-old city, Taipei is having a very late coming-of-age party. But then again, this unhurried but vibrant capital has taken a while to become comfortable in its own skin. With Chinese, Japanese and Western influences in its food, culture, folk arts and architecture, Taipei has finally decided that it's a mix, and all the better for it.

As with the multifarious street food, the traveller is advised to go for the *xiao chi* (little snacks) in everything. Day trips are particularly delicious, and a quick MRT ride takes you to tea fields, hot springs, river parks, and colonial towns backed by a mountainous national park. Within Taipei don't miss the Minnan-style temples beautified with unique decorative arts, the heritage lanes turned gourmet cafe and boutique centres, the buzzing neon neighbourhoods or the nightlife scene, growing in reputation yearly.

When to Go

Taipei



Jan & Feb The weeks before and after the Lunar New Year are a great time to visit.

Jun–Sep Fresh, luscious tropical fruits are readily available.

Oct–Dec The hot summer is gone but the winter chill yet to begin: the perfect time to explore Taipei.



Taipei Highlights

- 1 See an art legacy spanning millennia at the **National Palace Museum** (p69).
- 2 Be charmed by the historic district of **Tamsui** (p106).
- 3 Explore the spiritual and artistic legacy of temples such as **Bao'an** (p65).
- 4 **Cycle** urban riding lanes and riverside paths (p76).
- 5 Shop, snack and people-watch in **Ximending** (p60).
- 6 Hike and hot spring in **Yangmingshan National Park** (p114).
- 7 Sip gourmet coffee along historic **Dihua Street** (p67).
- 8 Feast at night markets such as **Ningxia Night Market** (p91), currently Taipei's best.
- 9 Touch the sky from the top of Asia's tallest building, **Taipei 101** (p75).