



# Taroko National Park & the East Coast

## Includes ➔

Hualien .....	172
Taroko National Park	179
Highway 11 .....	185
Dulan (Doulan) .....	188
Ruisui (Rueisui) .....	193
Walami Trail .....	195
Luye .....	197
Taitung .....	198
Wulu .....	200
Lisong Hot Spring .....	201

## Best Views

- ➔ Taroko Gorge (p179)
- ➔ Sixty Stone Mountain (p196)
- ➔ Qingshui Cliffs (p182)
- ➔ Shitiping (p187)
- ➔ Luye Gaotai (p197)

## Off the Beaten Track

- ➔ Walami Trail (p195)
- ➔ South Cross-Island Highway (p200)
- ➔ Liji Badlands (p198)
- ➔ County Road 197 (p198)
- ➔ Loshan Scenic Area (p196)

## Why Go?

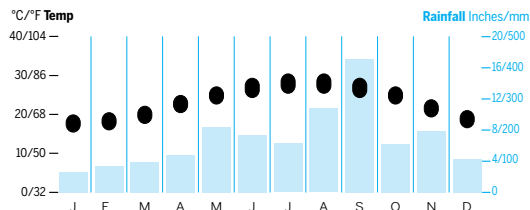
Much is made of the old Portuguese name for Taiwan, Ilha Formosa, which translates as 'the Beautiful Isle'. Well, it's this part of the country that they gave it to, and this part to which it still applies best.

The eastern landscape is dominated by towering sea cliffs and marble gorges, rice fields and wooded mountain ranges. There are no bad views here, and if you 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 have discovered an ideal environment combining knockout scenery, good roads and plenty of cosy little B&Bs. Others find the high concentration of indigenous people gives the region an appealing distinction – and a less manic vibe than 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



**Jan** Good time for beating the crowds at Taroko National Park.

**Jul & Aug** Aboriginal festivals all summer long.

**Sep–Dec** The best months for biking.



## Taroko National Park & the East Coast Highlights

- 1 Hike ancient hunting trails and marvel at marble canyon walls in **Taroko Gorge** (p179).
- 2 Cycle down the winding coastline on **Highway 11** (p185).
- 3 Photograph the magical floral landscape on **Sixty Stone Mountain** (p196).
- 4 Swim in pools of crystal-blue water in the **Mugua River Gorge** (p190).
- 5 Join aboriginal festivals all summer long (p195).
- 6 Soak in wild and tamed hot springs like **Antong Hot Springs** all over the east (p194).
- 7 Retrace colonial history and nature-watch on the **Walami Trail** (p195).
- 8 Check out a thriving local art and music scene at **Dulan Sugar Factory** (p188).
- 9 Roam the back country on **County Road 197** (p198).