



TAIWAN EXPRESS

Private Short Stay | 8 Days | Physical Level 1

Taipei – Sun Moon Lake – Chiayi – Taipei

Embark on an adventure through the best bits of Taiwan with three thrilling railway experiences – two on heritage lines – the Pingxi Line and the Alishan Forest Express – and one on the super-fast Taiwan High Speed Rail. You'll also have plenty of time to uncover the island's rich culture, visiting heritage sights, admiring scenic spots and dining on plenty of delicious, traditional foods.

- Discover vibrant Taipei
- Visit villages along the Pingxi Line
- Cruise the tranquil Sun Moon Lake
- Explore beautiful Alishan
- Learn about indigenous Tsou Tribe

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

TOUR MAP



TAIWAN EXPRESS INCLUSIONS:

- All accommodation in 3-4 star standard
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- All domestic transportation trains in standard seats, transfers and sightseeing by private air-conditioned vehicles or taxi's or public transport with assistant where stated
- English speaking Local Guide/driver including entrance fees for sightseeing listed
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you have to pay for are international flights, meals at leisure, personal expenditure e.g. drinks, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PRIVATE TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide for sightseeing whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Taiwan Express is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights, and climbing some steps. Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces.
- You will be required to get on and off small boats, coaches and trains without assistance.
- During the Pingxi Line day tour, you will be getting on and off the train unassisted. As this train is a regular commuter train, seats aren't reserved and you may have a period of standing.

Of course, our Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1: Arrive to Taipei**

Meals: none

Arrive in Taiwan's capital, Taipei, where you will be met by a driver in the arrival hall and transferred by private vehicle to your hotel to check in. Depending on your time of arrival, the remainder of the day is at leisure to start soaking up the local culture.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

**Destination Information**

Taipei – Taiwan's capital is a city of contrasts, where Chinese traditions blend with Japanese, Southeast Asian and American influences. It's modern and fast-paced, yet traces of the past are everywhere, from Japanese-era alleyways to bustling shopping streets. With its legendary street food scene and lively night markets, Taipei has a buzz that's hard to resist.

Day 2: Explore the Pingxi Line

Meals: B, L

After breakfast, meet your guide at the hotel lobby and head to Taipei railway station by public transportation. Board the train to Ruifang, where you start your guided tour along the scenic 8-mile Pingxi Line. There are 12 stations on Pingxi Line and your guide will recommend the best places to hop on and off to explore the local country villages and waterfalls. A stop at Shifen Old Street is a must for all travellers, where you can purchase a sky lantern to carry wishes and hopes for the coming year. After touring, take train back to Taipei and return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.



Please note – the Pingxi Line is operating as local commuter train. There is no reserved seating, therefore you may not be able to sit immediately on boarding the train

Destination Information

Pingxi Line – Originally built in 1918 to transport coal, the Pingxi Line is a scenic branch railway that winds through forested hills and former mining towns. Today it's a popular day trip from Taipei, offering a laid-back way to explore Taiwan's rural northeast.

Shifen Old Street – Set along the railway tracks, Shifen Old Street is known for its nostalgic charm and sky lantern tradition. Visitors write wishes on colourful lanterns before releasing them into the sky, a tradition that can be traced to mainland China's Fujian province.

Day 3: Explore Taipei

Meals: B, L

Today you will explore Taipei by public transport with your local guide, starting with visit to the National Palace Museum, home to thousands of artifacts and artworks that showcase 8,000 years of Chinese history, before admiring the Chiang Kai-Shek (CKS) Memorial Hall, a monument dedicated to the former leader. Inside are various artifacts including two of his Cadillacs, documents and items from his daily life. Next, take the high-speed elevator to the observation deck on the 89th floor of Taipei 101 for a birds-eye view of Taipei. Later, explore Longshan Temple, and in the evening visit one of Taipei's night market, famous for a snack-focused street food. Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Destination Information**

Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall – This grand monument honours the former President of the Republic of China. Set within Liberty Square, the white marble structure with its blue-tiled roof is surrounded by gardens and ponds. Inside, you'll find a museum and a large seated statue of Chiang Kai-shek guarded by ceremonial soldiers

Longshan Temple – One of the largest and oldest temples in Taiwan, Longshan was built in 1738 by Han immigrants from Fujian as a gathering place for Chinese settlers. Today it is one of the city's top religious sites, and it is a wonderful mix of the Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian faiths.

Taipei 101 – Once the tallest building in the world, Taipei 101 is a modern icon of the city skyline. Shaped like a bamboo stalk, the 508-metre tower combines design with engineering innovation. High-speed elevators whisk visitors to the 89th floor observatory for panoramic views across the city and beyond.

Day 4: Taipei to Sun Moon Lake

Meals: B

This morning, travel by road to the picturesque Sun Moon Lake, a designated National Scenic Area. Explore a tea plantation set in picturesque rolling hills and taste a cup of the delicious tea yourself. Continue to the lakeside Wen Wu Temple, known for its grand architecture and scenic views.

Later, take a shared motorboat cruise around the lake and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.



Destination Information

Sun Moon Lake – Sun Moon Lake is Taiwan's largest lake. The name is inspired by the beauty of the area. The east side of the lake is round, like the sun, while the west side is long and narrow, like a crescent moon. The lake and its surrounding countryside have been designated one of 13 national scenic areas in Taiwan. Due to low rainfall and droughts over recent years as a result of climate change, please be mindful that water levels may be low during the time of your visit.

Wen Wu Temple – In the past, two temples were located on the shore of Sun Moon Lake. In 1919, a dam was constructed, causing the lake's water level to rise, and the temples were torn down and consolidated at the temple's present location in 1938. In 1969, Wen Wu temple was rebuilt again in the Chinese palace style. There is walk of around 5 minutes on a steep slope up to the top and three-story steps down to the entrance.

Day 5: Travel to Chiayi

Meals: B, L

Depart Sun Moon Lake and travel to Bantaoyao Craft Park, once a working pottery factory and now a creative hub for local artisans. Try your hand at mosaic making as you learn traditional methods and decorate your own tile to take home. Lunch today will be traditional hot pot, cooking various meats and vegetables in a delicious broth.



This afternoon visit a museum of Old Taiwan Tiles, then continue to Chiayi and check in to your hotel.

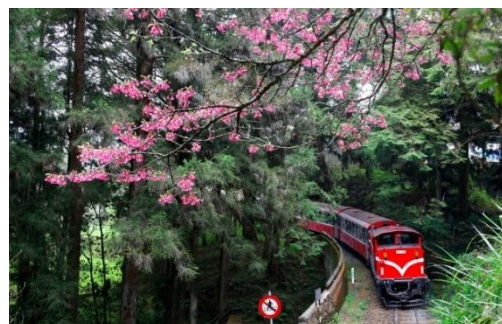
Destination Information

Bantaoyao Craft Park – Once a traditional pottery factory, Bantaoyao has been transformed into a colourful cultural park celebrating Taiwan's ceramic heritage. Wander through the workshops, admire large-scale mosaic art, and try your hand at decorating your own tile.

Day 6: Ride the Alishan Forest Train

Meals: B

Travel to Yuyupas, a cultural park where you can learn about the indigenous Tsou Tribe and enjoy a coffee or tea. Then begin your exploration of the beautiful Alishan Forest Recreation Area and ride the scenic Alishan Forest Train - the highest narrow-gauge railway in Asia - as it winds through dense forest. Continue your sightseeing around Alishan stopping at natural sights such as the Sister Pond, Brother Tree and Three Generation Tree. Return to Chiayi.



Destination Information

Yuyupas Cultural Park – Situated at an elevation of 1,200 meters in the Alishan Mountain ranges, Yuyupas encompasses an array of cultural and historical artifacts, as well as dining areas, tea houses, a theater, millennium wood exhibits, and an arts and crafts center.

Alishan National Scenic Area – Famed for its ethereal sunrises, sea of clouds, ancient forests and high-mountain tea, Alishan is one of Taiwan's most iconic natural destinations. Originally home to the Tsou indigenous people, the area rose to prominence during the Japanese era due to its logging industry and narrow-gauge forest railway, which still operates today.

Alishan Forest Train – One of Taiwan's most iconic railways, the Alishan Forest Train climbs through dense forests and misty mountains. Originally built for logging in the Japanese era, today it offers a nostalgic journey with scenic views, especially popular at sunrise from the Zhushan viewing platform.

Day 7: Return to Taipei

Meals: B, L

Journey back to Taipei, pausing en route at the fascinating Changhua Roundhouse, a railway roundhouse built in 1922. You'll also visit Lukang Old Street, known for its many temples and atmospheric narrow lanes.

Then, transfer to Changhua train station and say goodbye to your guide. Board the high-speed train, reaching speeds of up to 300km per hour, approximately 1.5 hours back to Taipei. Meet your English-speaking assistant on arrival and transfer to your hotel by taxi for an evening at your leisure.



Destination Information

Changhua Roundhouse - is a unique and historic railway facility, known for its semicircular layout and fully operational turntable. Built during the Japanese era, it remains one of the few functioning roundhouses in the world.

Lukang Old Street – is a charming maze of red-brick lanes, traditional shops, and beautifully preserved architecture. Famous for its nostalgic atmosphere, the street is lined with artisan workshops, tea houses, and vendors selling local delicacies like ox-tongue pastries and traditional handicrafts.

Day 8: Depart Taipei

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, as per the departure time of your international flight.

Late checkout is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



TAIWAN EXPRESS TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

A visa is not required for Australian citizens visiting Taiwan for stay up to 90 days.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours.

We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time. We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

EATING IN TAIWAN:

Taiwanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and several dishes of vegetables, sea food (normally fish and/or shrimps), and meats (pork, beef or chicken). Taiwan's other main staple is noodles, most famous being beef noodle. Food is an important element of Taiwanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

Meals as listed in the itinerary (excluding drinks) are included. Breakfast will be at your hotel and mostly buffet style but may be a set-menu. Lunches where included are at a local restaurant, and are usually Taiwanese pre-set options. Beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

If you have any dietary requirements, you must inform us before your tour starts, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. Gluten-free food may not be as readily available as in Australia.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

TRANSPORT:

Cars: Private cars with air conditioning are used on our Private tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. The size of the vehicle will vary between cities and dependant on the number of travellers. All vehicles have space for one suitcase and one hand luggage per person. Roads in Taiwan have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

High-Speed Train: On this tour, you will take a high-speed rail (HSR) in standard-class reserved seats. The seating configuration is 3 x 2 and each seat is equipped with a fold-down tray. There is free Wi-Fi available onboard along with a food trolley service, and western toilets in most carriages. Luggage should not exceed 150cm in length per piece, or 220cm in total length, width and height per piece, and 40kg in total weight.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling during the following public holidays, please be aware that celebrations can last for several days. During these periods, some businesses may close, and coach, air, and train travel could be affected. While tourist attractions remain open, they may be crowded.

- **Chinese New Year:** 17 – 23 February 2026, and 6 – 12 February 2027
- **Tomb Sweeping Day:** Typically falls between 4 – 7 April annually
- **Dragon Boat Festival:** 19 – 21 June 2026, and 8 – 10 June 2027
- **Golden Week:** 29 April – 3 May annually

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. All hotels listed are subject to change depending on availability at time of booking and we reserve the right to substitute with another hotel in similar standard. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Taiwan.

We cannot guarantee the availability of double beds. All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, TV and telephone. Hotels in Taiwan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your local guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your local guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Taiwan is no exception. For Private Tours, tipping is at your own discretion and we recommend the following amounts paid in the equivalent local currency.

- Tour Guide: US\$8-10 per person, per day
- Drivers: US\$3-5 per person, per day
- Hotel Maid & Porterage: US\$1-2 per use
- Restaurants (with no added service charge to the bill): 10-15% per meal

DEVELOPMENT IN TAIWAN:

Taiwan is a developed country and as such matches the west in modernity and technological advances in many aspects. Taiwan is a safe country to visit and the locals are very friendly and willing to help visitors.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Please note that it can take 2-7 business days to confirm a Private Tour. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Last Updated: December 2025