



Formerly called the Island of 'Formosa' (Portuguese for 'beautiful'), Taiwan is relatively small despite its population of over 23 million people. In April 2012, Taiwan was named 15th in the list of most densely

populated nations, but the crowds are a welcoming and charming part of the capital city, Taipei. Taipei has a long established reputation as a gourmet's paradise, boasting cuisine from every region of China. It is also home

to new boutique hotels and trendy cafes that have sprung up in a flurry of construction culminating in the opening of the 'world's tallest building', Taipei 101 (now overtaken by Burj Khalifa in Dubai).



Longshan Temple

There also isn't any other place worldwide where you can witness thousands of residents on scooters driving alongside each other, safely transporting crazy items such as full-sized fridges, without a single scratch. Taipei is constantly developing into a more technological yet environmentally-friendly city and as a result of this growth, Taipei's cultural scene has blossomed giving local art and architecture a distinctly Taiwanese edge.

Taiwan has a rich history, one that has solidified a strong relationship with the West as well as brought together an exceptionally diverse group of people. The country has plenty to offer, from truly unique scenery to exciting sporting activities and colourful festivals, not to mention the most varied Taiwanese food on earth. A trip to the capital offers a glimpse of this incredible country.

Things to see

Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall

Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall is an imposing tomb and shrine to Taipei's most famous leader and it also houses Taipei's main venues for the performing arts, the National Theatre and National Opera House in its large grounds.



Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall

Longshan Temple

The Longshan Temple is the city's most atmospheric Taoist temple. Curling dragons, wafting incense and burning paper 'ghost money' are only some of the things you can experience here while understanding the importance of temples to the locals.