Taiwan attracts travellers from Oman with its green tourism

From hot air balloon festivals to serene and picturesque getaways for honeymooners, Taiwan is also perfect for adventure lovers and families (Supplied photo)

Our Correspondent
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To introduce opportunities in Taiwan's travel, tourism and hospitality industry, a 28-member Taiwanese delegation met travel agents at the InterContinental Muscat on Sunday.

Organised by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau (TTB) the delegation focused on the theme, *'Greenery and healthy lives in Taiwan'*.

Arthur Hsieh, director of TTB, Singapore branch, said, "Tourism in Taiwan includes viewing natural landscapes, visiting agricultural farms, luxury shopping and having halal-certified food. Taiwan received 10mn visitors in 2015. It also received favourable attention from international media like the US website Business Insider which ranked Taiwan among the top six new must-visit destinations of 2016; *The National Geographic Traveler* ranked Taiwan among the Top 20 Best Travel Destinations of the World."

Hsieh added, "Taiwan is vigorously creating a friendly environment for Muslim travellers as well, and as a result it was selected by Singapore's MasterCard-CrescentRating as one of the top seven non-OIC (Organization of Islamic Conference) destinations."

Tom Yang, president of Big 5 Tours said that Taiwan has a lot to offer. "From lantern and hot air balloon festivals to serene and picturesque getaways for honeymooners...Taiwan is also a perfect destination for adventure lovers and families. The weather is perfect for people from Oman. The temperature is between 32°C and 35°C and it's a no-snow place. Halal food is another attraction." Joe M KO, president of Sunrise Travel Service Co said, "A traveller to Taiwan can experience hot springs in winters. Taiwan can be a reliable partner for medical tourism as well."

The workshop also saw a tea master brewing tea the traditional Taiwanese way, and a traditional troupe presenting an award-winning Taiwanese dance performance.

Leisure farms in Taiwan a popular draw

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An important aspect of Taiwan's green tourism is leisure farming. The country has more than 300 recreational farms.

Calem, a representative of the Taiwan Leisure Farms Development Association said, "We are currently promoting 44 farms for the GCC market. We have various themes like fruit farms, traditional villages, flower picking, wildlife, forests, hot springs resort etc."

At the Flying Cow Ranch, one of Taiwan's biggest and oldest leisure farms, visitors can enjoy undulating green meadows bordered with picket fences.

Frank, owner of the Long Yun leisure farm said, "Our farm is on a mountain and has a beautiful view. Visitors can go hiking, trekking, pick vegetables and cook on their own."

The Long Yun farm

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