



From  
**\$9,150** AUD

Single Room  
 \$10,850 AUD

Twin Room  
 \$9,150 AUD

Prices valid until  
 30th December 2024

11 days

Duration

Taiwan

Destination

Level 2 - Moderate

Activity

# Taiwan Lantern Festival small group tour

Feb 11 2025 to Feb 21 2025

## Small group tours Taiwan | Taiwan Lantern festival

Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed escorted small group tours across Taiwan and beyond into Asia. We explore Taiwan's fairytale sculptured natural beauty, its ancient heritage, and world famous city and museum, all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on one of Odyssey's small group tours of Taiwan, designed for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people



Taiwan Lantern Festival small group tour

<https://www.odysseytraveller.com>

17-Jul-2024

The Taiwan Lantern festival small group tour takes in amazing cultural festivals, temples and shrines. You will witness breathtaking natural landscapes, bustling night markets, magnificent cuisine and hospitable people. Join us on this unforgettable educational experience.

The fully escorted Taiwan Lantern festival small group tour is for 11 days with a maximum of 14 participants. The program leader draws on professional guides to share their knowledge of the culture and history as well as the natural beauty of Taiwan.

## Small group tours Taiwan Highlights

Our small group tour includes a stop in Taipei for a city tour with its impressive Taipei 101 Tower. You visit the National Palace Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Chinese art. Whilst touring the island you also visit a local village and enjoy a performance of traditional dancing illustrating their mythical origins.

We spend a morning at Yehliu Geo-Park on the island's north coast, strolling around its famous rock formations. Here we will view the beautiful scenery of the lunar-like landscape and rock formations. After a lunch break we drive up into the hillside villages of Chiufen which were once a gold mining town. The gold is now gone but the quaint old villages of closely packed houses, clinging to steep mountainsides, still offer enchanting scenery and fascinating glimpses into past lifestyles.

Highlights also include a tour of Taipei City. Here we take in the Grand Hotel, built on the instructions of Chiang Kai-Shek primarily to house visiting foreign dignitaries. It is the world's tallest building of classical Chinese design. We will also see the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, which includes the National Theatre and National Opera House within its grounds.

In the afternoon we will drive to Chihu, the final resting place of Chiang Kai-Shek, and then on to Sanhsia, a bustling town with narrow, winding streets and brick buildings at least 100 years old. A short trip further on

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brings us to Yingko where hand-painted replicas of elegant Ming (1368 – 1644) and Ching (or Qing) (1644 – 1911) vases are produced.

## Natural Wonders

The Taiwan small group tour also includes many of Taiwan's natural wonders; from Taroko Gorge, one of the seven wonders of Asia, to Sun Moon Lake, Taiwan's largest lake. We also visit Kenting National Park for a walking tour. The park has 60 kilometres of coral-rimmed shoreline. The East Coast National Scenic Area stretches for 170 kilometres.

During the tour, accommodation is typically in first-class hotels, including the Lalu Hotel, which has been voted among the top 50 resorts in the world.

This Taiwan small group tour is suited for the mature-aged or senior couple or solo traveller.

Note: Due to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in April 2024, the Taroko Gorge National Park suffered significant damage to its infrastructure including roads, trails, and visitor facilities. Our itinerary will be adjusted as required until the park is fully operational.

## Get in Touch about Odyssey Traveller's Taiwan Tours

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, [please call](#) or [send an email](#). Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Our article [Questions about Taiwan](#) may also help you as you finalise your travel plans.

## Tour Notes

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- Due to the earthquake on 3 April 2024, the Taroko Gorge National Park suffered significant damage to its infrastructure including roads, trails, and visitor facilities. Our itinerary will be adjusted as required until the park is fully operational.
- Please note Lantern Festival site gathers large crowds and the group will be standing for long periods of time.
- Tour itinerary is indicative only and is subject to change due to local conditions and date of festival.

## Highlights

1. Discover Taipei's impressive Taipei 101 Tower.
2. Visit the Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival in Taiwan.
3. View the treasures of the National Palace Museum.
4. Explore the culinary delights at Raohe Night Market.
5. See the natural beauty of Sun Moon Lake and stay in Taiwan's most iconic hotel, the Lalu in Sun Moon Lake.

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Taipei

**Overview:**

Today we will arrive in Taipei and come to the hotel individually. We will meet our tour leader in the late afternoon in the hotel lobby for a briefing and welcome dinner.

(D)

**Accommodation:**

3 nights at Hotel Cham Cham or similar



## Day 2

**Locations:** Taipei

### **Overview:**

Today will be one of the highlights of our trip as we attend the Lantern Festival, or as it is called in Chinese, the Shang-Yuan-Jie.

On our day trip to Pingxi we'll first pause at the hillside villages of Chiufen. Both the village of Chiufen and the neighbouring township of Jinguashi in Taipei County were once gold mining centres. These quaint old villages of closely packed houses cling to steep mountainsides, offering enchanting scenery and fascinating glimpses into past lifestyles.

In the afternoon, we continue to Pingxi where we'll attend the Lantern Festival, in a small township nestled among the mountains, an hour's drive from Taipei. We will witness thousands of sky lanterns with wishes written on them released together into the night sky on the first full moon of the Chinese New Year. The spectacular Lantern Festival is truly a joy to behold.

(B,L)

### **Accommodation:**

Hotel Cham Cham or similar

## Day 3

**Locations:** Taipei

### **Overview:**

We will embark on a full-day tour of Taipei. We will start our exploration with a visit to Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, a significant landmark which was built in 1980 to commemorate former Taiwan President Chiang Kai-shek.

Next, we visit the National Palace Museum, which is home to the world's largest and finest collection of Chinese art, spanning 5,000 years of Chinese history. If time allows, we will also visit contemporary Chinese art master Chang Dai-ch'ien's Memorial Residence.

After lunch, marvel at the modern architecture of Taipei 101 (excluding observatory deck access) before indulging in the culinary delights at

Raohe Night Market and paying a visit to the nearby Tsiyao Temple.  
(B,L,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Cham Cham or similar

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Taipei - Chihpen

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we'll take a train to Hualien station and then transfer to Taitung along coastline.

We'll make a few stops along the way and visit Baxian cave and at Dulan and learn about the legend of the Terrace of the Three Immortals at Sansien Tai.

On arrival at our hotel we have time to enjoy a relaxing hot spring bath and in the evening we'll enjoy buffet dinner in the hotel.

Note: The visit and stay at Taroko Gorge has been removed for 2024/25 as the park was severely impacted during the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in April 2024 and most of its infrastructure has been compromised.

(B,L,D)

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at Hoya Hot spring Chihpen 4\* or similar

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Chihpen - Taitung - Chihpen

**Overview:**

Today we explore Taitung including a visit to the National Museum of Prehistory, which has its origin dating back to 1980, when during the construction of the new local train station an important archaeological site was discovered – Peinan site, the largest cluster of slate coffin graves in Southeast Asia and Circum-Pacific Belt. In response to calls for the preservation of the cultural heritage of this site and others, the Main Museum of the NMP was built to the south of the Kangle train

station.

In the afternoon we make our way to the rural town of Chishang, famous for its rice paddy grown with the pure local water. We have a chance to enjoy a bicycle ride on roads along the rice paddies.

(B,D)

Afternoon visit Chishang and experience bike ride.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hoya Hot spring Chihpen 4\* or similar

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Chihpen - Kaohsiung

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we will head for Kaohsiung, which is Taiwan's second largest city and the largest industrial harbour in Taiwan. It is also the second busiest port in Asia. We'll visit Cijing Island in the morning and explore Foguanshan in the late afternoon, home to the beautiful Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Grand Hi-Lai Hotel or similar

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Kaohsiung - Tainan

**Overview:**

Today we will drive to Tainan, which is the ancient imperial capital. We will see the Chihkan Tower, which is known originally as Fort Provintia, and we will also see the Fujian-style Koxinga Shrine. We'll also visit Anping Castle and Anping Old Street, immersing ourselves in the rich

history and culture of Taiwan's oldest city.

(B,L,D)

**Accommodation:**

The Place Tainan or similar

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Tainan -Sun Moon Lake

**Overview:**

Today we will travel to the beautiful resort of Sun Moon Lake. Its name derives from the shape of the lake—the northern part of the lake is in the shape of the sun, while the southern part resembles a crescent moon.

Tonight we will stay at the one of the top 50 resorts in the world: the tranquil Lalu Resort. It was designed by award-winning Australian architect Kerry Hill. The hotel, which overlooks Taiwan's largest lake and features an impressive mountain backdrop, was the place where Chiang Kai-shek entertained his overseas dignitaries. The guest house was painstakingly relocated, brick by brick, into the Garden of Lalu and is now a museum commemorating Chiang Kai-Shek's era.

**Accommodation:**

Lalu Sun Moon Lake or similar

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Sun Moon Lake

**Overview:**

Today's highlight is a visit to the Lantern Festival. In the morning, we will take a private motorboat ride around Sun Moon Lake. We will also visit the Holy Monk Shrine, dedicated to Buddhist monk Xuanzang, who led an epic journey from China to India in 629. He returned 16 years later with hundreds of scriptures and scrolls, and had a profound influence on the spread of Buddhism throughout China.

After lunch, we will visit the Antique Assam Tea Farm. Later this afternoon, we will travel to the venue where the Lantern Festival is held



and enjoy the spectacular lantern exhibition.

**Accommodation:**

Lalu Sun Moon Lake or similar

**Day 10**

**Locations:** Sun Moon Lake/Taipei

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we will continue our journey to Taipei. On the way, we will stop at Chiang Kai-shek's mausoleum, where we will hear stories of his ambitious plans to return to mainland China. We will view the Chiang Kai-shek Statue Park, home to hundreds of his statues collected from all over Taiwan, to mark the end of an era. This evening will feature a farewell dinner, to be held at our hotel's restaurant.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Cham Cham or similar

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Taipei

**Overview:**

Our tour will end after breakfast. We will have time to pack and look around Taipei at our leisure.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 10 nights hotel accommodation including breakfast.
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary.
- Travel is in modern, air-conditioned coaches.
- All field trips and associated entry fees as per the itinerary.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.

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- Services of a tour leader for the duration of tour.

#### **What's not included in our Tour**

- International airfares.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

#### **Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.