



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>

25-Nov-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 Tapei'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 Caesar Banqiao 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:**

Caesar Banqiao 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:**

Caesar Banqiao or similar

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Taipei - Yilan - Hualien

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we'll make our way to Hualien, via Yilan.

We'll stop to visit Yilan National Centre for Traditional Arts, located beside the beautiful Dongshan River. The centre offers organized displays of art and performances of culture and art.

Our next stop is at Langyan Museum, an exhibition space designed to showcase the unique topography of Yilan, including the *Lanyang* Mountains, the plains, and the ocean.

We continue on via the impressive Qingshui cliff before arriving at our accommodation in time for dinner.

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:**

1 night at Lakeshore Hotel Hualien or similar

## Day 5

**Locations:** Hualien - Chihpen

### Overview:

In the morning we depart Hualien and travel to Chihpen via the coastal way.

We'll make a few stops along the way to appreciate the local scenic beauty.

We'll pause at Sansientai, a headland facing a small island in the sea. The three huge rocks that make up the island's most prominent feature have given rise to a local legend that three of China's Eight Immortals once landed there; hence the name of the island, which means "terrace of the three immortals." The island was once connected to the headland by a neck of land which has been eroded away; it is now connected by a red, scalloped footbridge, and the island has a network of footpaths for viewing its geological features such as potholes and sea-eroded caves and trenches, as well as rare coastal vegetation.

Another stop along the way will be at Baxian Cave, located in the north of Hua Tung Mountain by the coast of Changbin Township. "Baxian" (eight deities) are famous Chinese deities. Fogs drift perpetually around the caves and the interior is damp and misty.

We arrive late afternoon in Chihpen and have some time to enjoy the hot springs and rest before dinner at the hotel.

(B,D)

### Accommodation:

1 night at Hoya Hot spring Chihpen 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:**

1 night at 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:**

1 night at 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.

En route we'll stop to visit National Palace Museum (South Branch) before reaching our accommodation.

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.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at Lalu Sun Moon Lake or similar

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Sun Moon Lake

**Overview:**

Today we'll visit the Assam Tea Factory and 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.

There's also some time for rest and later in the afternoon we will take a private motorboat ride around Sun Moon Lake. We'll also visit Wenwu Temple and the vibrant Idashao market.

(B,D)

**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 Ci Lake, with its clear waters mirroring lush greenery we can enjoy a peaceful stroll along winding paths and be immersed in the tranquility of the surrounding area.

We continue on to Taoyuan Lantern Festival, a radiant celebration of culture and tradition that illuminates the night with colourful lantern displays depicting folklore and heritage. Amidst the luminous ambiance, we can indulge in street food delights, view traditional performances and

engage in interactive activities.

After the festival we travel to our hotel in Taipei where we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel.

(B,L,D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night at Hotel Cham Cham or similar

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Taipei

**Overview:**

Our tour concludes after breakfast at the hotel

(B)

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 10 nights hotel accommodation including breakfast.
- 10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 9 Dinners.
- Travel is in modern, air-conditioned coaches.
- All field trips and associated entry fees as per the itinerary.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- 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.