



## TAIWAN: NATURAL & CULTURAL RICHES – A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Discover the rugged natural beauty and rich cultural history of the island nation of Taiwan, as you venture from the Qing Dynasty-era temples of Taipei to the lush forests, narrow gorges and alpine peaks of Taroko National Park.

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Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Asia, Taiwan



10 days from AU\$19,890 pp



18 Guests

## Journey Overview

Discover the rugged natural beauty and rich cultural history of the island nation of Taiwan, as you venture from the Qing Dynasty-era temples of Taipei to the lush forests, narrow gorges and alpine peaks of Taroko National Park, learn the intricacies of harvesting tea and meet an expert who explains Taiwan's pivotal place in world politics.

### Journey Highlights

- Delve into Taiwan's fascinating history, exploring the National Palace Museum and learning about the island's political situation from an expert
- Venture between the sheer marble walls of Taroko Gorge to behold landscapes worthy of a Chinese scroll painting
- Traverse the scenic Cross Island Highway, which ascends from sea level through tropical rainforest to alpine heights
- Sample Taiwan's unique culinary culture with a scallion cake making class and a visit to a night market
- Learn about the heritage of Taiwan's Chinese and Aboriginal populations



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Taipei, Taiwan**

Arrive in Taipei, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

***Mandarin Oriental, Taipei***

### **Day 2: Taipei | A Nation's Place in History & Geopolitics**

Explore the city, starting at the National Palace Museum, viewing artifacts that span eight centuries. Visit the National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine, and then stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to Longshan Temple, dedicated to the Bodhisattva Guanyin, and enter the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial before a guided walk of Dihua Street, dotted with tea and tailor shops. This evening at your hotel, attend a welcome dinner highlighted by a talk on regional geopolitics by a local professor.

***Mandarin Oriental, Taipei | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Yilan | Whiskey Tasting & Scallion Making**

Journey to Yilan County on Taiwan's scenic northeast coast. Visit the local Kavalan whiskey distillery and taste a dram or two, and then partake in a hands-on Chef's Table experience, learning the art of making Yilan's famous scallion cakes, a delicious national tradition. After lunch at a local restaurant, journey to Taroko National Park, taking in coastal landscapes of rugged beauty en route. On arrival, check in to your hotel, where you dine tonight.

***Silks Place Taroko | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 4: Taroko National Park | Classic Natural Vistas**

Explore Taroko National Park, home to the soaring, marble-walled Taroko Gorge, where you drive and walk amid magnificent vistas that evoke the images found in Chinese scroll work. Continue to Swallow Grotto, hiking to elegant shrines and glittering waterfalls, and experiencing an almost ethereal ambience. Enjoy lunch before visiting the visually stunning Tunnel of Nine Turns.

***Silks Place Taroko | Meals: BL***

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### **Day 5: Sun Moon Lake | Unexpected Alpine Views**

Set out early for Sun Moon Lake, crossing the island's towering central mountain range. Ascend through cloud and pine forests to Hehuanshan, savouring breathtaking alpine views. Continue to Sun Moon Lake, set in a lush valley. After lunch at a local restaurant, check in to your hotel. This evening, enjoy a Scenic Sundowner, basking in the surrounding grandeur.

***The Lalu | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Sun Moon Lake | Tea Plantation Visit & Tasting**

Explore the Sun Moon Lake area, ancestral home of the indigenous Thao people. Visit Wenwu Temple, and then ride a cable car up to an observation tower to marvel at the scenic panoramas. Next, view this beautiful setting by private boat. Back on shore, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Ita Thao Cultural Village and gain insight into Thao cultural traditions.

***The Lalu | Meals: BL***

### **Day 7: Tainan | Savoury Secrets of the Night Market**

After a relaxing morning, visit a tea plantation for lessons in planting tea, picking leaves and processing them, and sip a freshly made cup of this organic treasure. After lunch at a local restaurant, set out for Tainan, a historic city established by the Dutch East India Company as a lucrative hub for trade. Noted for its many temples, Tainan also offers a diverse culinary culture complete with bustling food markets. Tonight, discover this thriving scene on a guided visit to the city's vibrant night market.

***Shangri-la Far Eastern, Tainan | Meals: BL***

### **Day 8: Tainan | Streets That Reveal Cultural Riches**

Today, begin at the Anping Fort, a site central to historic events from the Qing Dynasty to World War II. Walk nearby streets, viewing time-worn stalls and shops, and admiring the architecture. Visit exquisitely preserved Shennong Street before time at your leisure for lunch. Tonight, dine at your hotel.

***Shangri-la Far Eastern, Tainan | Meals: BD***

### **Day 9: Taipei | The Modern Charms of Taiwan's Capital**

Board a bullet train and Ride Like a Local to Taipei, arriving in time for lunch. Explore the dazzling Taipei 101, the world's tallest "green structure." Also visit Huashan 1914 Creative Park, once a sake winery and today a dynamic cultural venue. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner.

***Mandarin Oriental, Taipei | Meals: BLD***

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## Day 10: Depart Taipei

Transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

Travel in this region entails visits to sites with limited accessibility for those with mobility challenges.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 9.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

## Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

## Map





## Accommodation

### Mandarin Oriental, Taipei



Mandarin Oriental Taipei, located on tree-lined Dunhua North Road in the heart of the city, offers a five-star urban retreat. Built in a French style with mansard roofs, the hotel's 303 spacious rooms and suites feature walk-in closets and luxurious, classically inspired marble bathrooms with walk-in showers and separate bathtubs. Decorative details abound including floral reliefs laced with peonies (a symbol of good fortune) and nature-themed artworks.

With diverse dining opportunities you can savour timeless Chinese cuisine at Michelin-starred Ya Ge, or indulge in modern international fare at Italian-focussed Bencotto and the seasonal a la carte menus of Café Un Deux Trois. Be tempted by a sundowner in the Art Deco inspired M.O. bar, or a sweet treat from the Mandarin Cake Shop.

With a sophisticated design, exquisite restaurants, a refreshing outdoor pool and one of the largest hotel spas in Taiwan, Mandarin Oriental, is an opulent gem offering a truly unforgettable experience.

## Silks Place Taroko



Located within the Taroko National Park, Silks Place offers the perfect base to explore the surrounding natural landscapes. Designed in the modern Chinese style, and combining Taroko's cultural and environmental characteristics, the result is a simple, elegant and relaxing oasis.

This luxurious 160-room hotel makes liberal use of wood and stone while the rooftop infinity pool offers breathtaking views, overlooking the dramatic scenery of the Taroko Gorge. The roof also houses an expansive seating area centred around a firepit, often showcasing creative talent with performances by local artists and musicians entertaining guests.

Indoors there is an additional pool, a yoga and fitness room as well as saunas, steam room and a spa – perfect after a day hiking in the gorge.



## The Lalu



The Lalu offers a luxury lodge haven for your next secluded escape. Perched on a hill along Sun Moon Lake, one of Taiwan's most scenic locales. Thanks to its position right across the hilltop Xuanguang temple, it boasts one of the most breathtaking views in the area.

Relax into the minimal Zen-like aesthetic courtesy of the late Australian architect Kerry Hill, exuding timeless ambiance. Spread over three buildings that seamlessly merge into the surrounding hillside forest, The Lalu delivers bright, airy spaces with huge floor-to-ceiling windows that make the most from its dramatic lakeside setting.

With the exception of a handful of the stand-alone villas, all of the hotel's 96 rooms offer tranquil lake views. Balconies span their full length, and the snug daybeds make them perfect for lazy lakeside afternoons. The décor – everything teak, slate grey stone, and a remote-controlled fireplace – channels a sleek log cabin aesthetic. The open-plan bathrooms are done in granite and feature double vanities and large tubs.

Perfect for a rejuvenating getaway, the onsite spa offers an extensive range of massage treatments, saunas, steam rooms, a gym, and a semi-outdoor hot spring that allows you to quite literally soak up the spectacular views. The sunbed-lined infinity pool offers more ways to relax, as do the complimentary yoga classes.

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Mar 7, 2025 - Mar 16, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$19,890 pp</b>	AU\$6,115	AU\$0	Available

### Oct 17, 2025 - Oct 26, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$19,890 pp</b>	AU\$6,115	AU\$0	Available

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