



## THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### TAIWAN

(11/11/10 updated)

*Thank you for choosing RITZ TOURS!!!*

Our experienced staff of vacation specialists take pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. We offer the best quality tours at the most affordable prices. We hope you will have a wonderful and stimulating trip.

#### **PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:**

1. International Airline e-tickets and US Domestic e-Tickets (if applicable)
2. Your Flight Schedule
3. Day-by-day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A copy of "Taiwan--Things to Know Before You Go"
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire / Feedback Form

Upon arrival in Taiwan, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for a Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please make sure that you wear your blue Ritz Tours' badge for easy identification.

#### **AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING**

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guides, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):

- \$7 per person per day (except free day) – to be distributed between drivers and guides

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your Partner-in-Travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.

We wish you “**yi lu shun fong**,” our way of saying Bon Voyage!



## Things to know before you go – TAIWAN

### Travel Documentation

- ❖ Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip.
- ❖ A visa is not needed for all tourists entering Taiwan holding valid USA passports. The duration of stay should not exceed 30 days.
- ❖ Please note it is the responsibility of the traveler (if not holding valid USA passport) to obtain a Taiwan entry visa in a timely manner. If you are going to another country after the trip please ensure applicable entry visas have been procured.
- ❖ Hong Kong entry permit: United States citizens must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to 90 days.
- ❖ For detailed passport and entry requirements, all travelers are advised to check with their embassy or consulate.

### Health & Medical Matters

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of anyone traveling from or via an infected area. Due to the length of the trip and local traveling conditions, it is advised that you consult your doctor for existing medical/dental conditions before departure. If you are taking prescription medicine, please pack in your hand luggage sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip and make sure it is fully labeled. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour conductor and local guide for assistance.

### Taiwan Customs Procedures

Foreign visitors 20 or over in age are allowed to import, free of duty, 200 cigarettes (or 25 cigars or 1 pound of tobacco), 1000 c.c. or less alcoholic beverage without limitation on the number of bottles. For inbound and outbound traveler declaration and duty exemption, please check Taipei Customs Office website [www.taipei.customs.gov.tw](http://www.taipei.customs.gov.tw) for details .

### Electrical Requirement

Taiwan's electrical system operates at 110 volts. The electrical outlets are compatible with those in the USA.

### Money Matters

Taiwanese currency is called New Taiwan Dollar (NT) and is issued by the state bank. We suggest you bring a combination of cash (some \$1's, \$5's and \$20's) and travelers checks for your trip.

- ❖ There is no limit on the amount of foreign currencies you may bring into Taiwan
- ❖ Credit cards are widely accepted in Taiwan. International hotels, department stores and shops frequented by foreign tourists generally accept them.

As of November 2010, the following exchange rates apply: US\$1 = NT 30.0 (Subject to currency exchange rate fluctuations)

### Baggage

- ❖ Baggage allowance for international flights may vary by airlines and is subject to change at any time. For up to date baggage allowance information, please check online at [www.ritztours.com](http://www.ritztours.com) for the latest regulations.
- ❖ Consider packing one change of clothing, one set of underwear and toiletry in your carry on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delayed or lost luggage.
- ❖ DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in carry on bag.
- ❖ Important note: Ritz Tours representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. Luggage carts are available, free of charge, at all airports. Collect your luggage and exit, our local representatives will be waiting for you outside.
- ❖ Please consult [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for USA carryon restrictions.

### Shopping

Although Ritz Tours' representatives will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and thus must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.



## Things to know before you go – TAIWAN

### Food and Drinks

- ❖ Meals are included in as specified in the itinerary.
- ❖ Tap water is not potable in Taiwan. Hotel stores generally carry a variety of soft drinks and bottled water.
- ❖ Complimentary bottled water is often provided in the hotel rooms.

### Language

- ❖ The official language is Mandarin.
- ❖ To make your trip more interesting and rewarding, we have included a list of the most useful phrases in Mandarin.

### Clothing

- ❖ We suggest you bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes for the trip.
- ❖ Check newspaper for weather conditions before you go, and pack accordingly.
- ❖ It is not necessary to bring formal clothing.
- ❖ Do not over pack.

### Time Differentials

Taipei is 12 hours ahead of New York, and 15 hours ahead of San Francisco and Los Angeles (DST). All time within Taiwan is based on Taipei time; there are

no adjustments for seasons or longitude.

### National Holidays and Festivals

#### National Holidays:

- \* January 1 New Year's Day
- \* February 28 Peace Memorial Day
- \* April 4 The combined holidays of Women's Day & Children's Day
- \* April 5 Traditional Tomb Sweeping Day
- \* May 1 Labor Day
- \* October 10 National Day

#### National Festivals:

- \* Chinese Lunar New Year and Spring Festival - First day of the first lunar month
- \* Dragon Boat Festival - Fifth day of fifth lunar month
- \* Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival) - The 15<sup>th</sup> day of the eighth lunar month
- \* Chinese New Year's Eve - last day of 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month

### Climate

Being a small Island Nation, Taiwan's climate does not vary drastically from region to region. Taiwan has subtropical climate. Summers are hot and humid while winters can be cool and damp. The rainy season usually occurs late summer to mid-autumn.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN MAJOR CITIES

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City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Taipei	60	61	64	71	76	81	85	84	81	76	70	64
Sun Moon Lake	57	59	62	67	70	72	73	73	72	70	65	60
Taichung	61	63	67	73	78	82	83	82	81	77	71	64
Tainan	63	65	70	75	81	83	84	83	82	78	72	66
Kaohsiung	66	68	72	77	81	83	84	83	82	80	74	68
Taitung	67	67	71	75	79	82	84	83	81	78	73	69
Hualien	64	64	68	73	77	81	84	82	80	76	71	67



## Things to know before you go – TAIWAN

### Useful Phrases in Mandarin

English	Mandarin Pronunciation	Chinese
Hello	Ni Hao	你好
How are you?	Ni Hao Ma?	你好嗎？
Please	Qing	請
Thank you	Xie Xie	謝謝
Yes	Yao	要
No	Bu Yao	不要
You're welcome	Bu Ke Qi	不客氣
Sorry	Dui Bu Qi	對不起
I can't understand	Wo Bu Dong	我不懂
Good morning	Zao Shang Hao	早上好
Good afternoon	Xia Wu Hao	下午好
Good evening	Wan Shang Hao	晚上好
Good night	Wan An	晚安
Goodbye	Zai Jian	再見
See you tomorrow	Min Tian Jian	明天見
You are nice	Ni Hung Hao	你很好
American	Mei Guo Ren	美國人
May I ask your name?	Qing Wen Gui Xin?	請問貴姓？
My name is	Wo Jiao	我叫
How much?	Duo Shao Qian?	多少錢？
Where is the restroom?	Che Suo Zai Na Li?	廁所在哪裡？
Where is the telephone?	Dian Hua Zai Na Li?	電話在哪裡？
What time?	Ji Dian?	幾點？
The food was delicious	Heng Hao Chi	很好吃
Cheers! /Bottoms up!	Gan Bei!	乾杯！
Excellent!	Heng Hao!	很好
Coffee	Ka Fei	咖啡
Tea	Cha	茶
Beer	Pi Jiu	啤酒
Mineral water	Kuang Quan Shui	礦泉水
Ice cubes	Bin Kuai	冰塊

### **A LAST REMINDER**

PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS & MONEY  
BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT!!