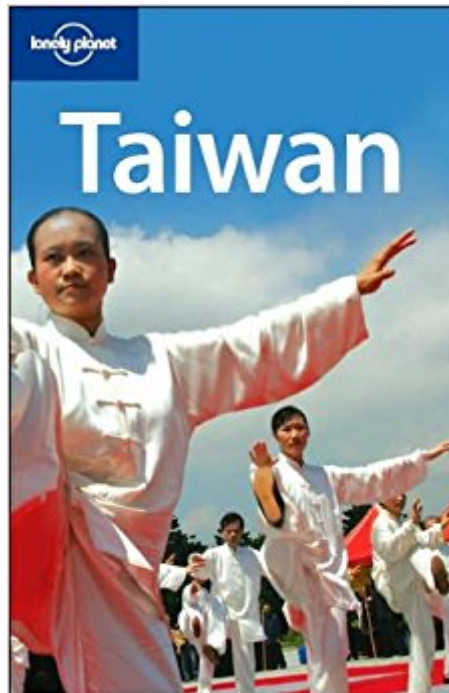




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Lonely Planet Taiwan (Country Guide)



Synopsis

Lonely Planet Taiwan Take your tastebuds touring around the buzz of food stalls at Taipei's Shilin Night Market Soak yourself in the steaming, smooth waters of the Taian hot springs Hike the Walami Trail to the sound of monkeys crashing through the jungle canopy Emerge from the temples of Penghu straight onto some of East Asia's finest beaches In This Guide: Two resident authors, 42 helpings of stinky tofu, 15 swims in waterfall pools, 1 run-in with the police New coverage of places and activities along the east coast and a fresh chapter on Taiwan's islands Visit lonelyplanet.com for up-to-date information

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best for curious and independent-minded travelers' --Wall Street Journal

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or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

I used both this book and the Rough Guide Taiwan on a recent trip. Both are excellent, but Rough Guide is a lot more thorough. If you are staying more than a few days in Taiwan, I recommend getting both. Good points of this book:- Easy to find things quickly. Item descriptions point you right to the relevant map, and the maps are gridded to quickly locate what you are looking for. Keys to the symbols used are on inside front cover.- Just about everything listed includes the Chinese name (character + pinyin) in addition to the standard western name. Anyone with some knowledge of Chinese should appreciate this.- Diagram of Taipei Metro is conveniently located on the last color page, where it is easy to flip to quickly. This was invaluable for getting oriented in Taipei. (But check also the Taipei Metro web site, because new stations have been added since the book appeared.)- The author often shares lesser-known sights that are favorites of his. Shortcomings:- Index is pathetic. When you see something on a map, it can be difficult to find where it is described in the text.- Taipei sights are grouped by category (all temples together, all museums together). It would be more helpful to group them by geographic neighborhood.- Could be more detailed. For many places outside Taipei, this book has only half as many pages as the Rough Guide. For lodging, the best place to look is online sites like HostelWorld or TripAdvisor or LonelyPlanet. I consider the book listings just a starting point. Travelers interested in the Alishan Mountain Railway should note that it has been closed by damage from a 2009 typhoon.

For a long time, Taiwan was rather neglected by Lonely Planet, and their guide to the country used to be awful - many reviews here still refer to old editions! That has changed with publishing this edition, which is very good. Completely rewritten by authors resident in the country, it now covers diverse attractions with accurate, detailed practical information of the sort LP specializes in. If you simply want to tour the main tourist sites of the country, aided by prior knowledge of prices and the like, this is probably the best book to take. However if your interest extends to exploring further off the beaten track and especially to hiking in the national parks, or would love to know more about Taiwan's culture and history, get the Rough Guide, which is even better!

I've purchased the Lonely Planet for Japan and really enjoyed the book. The Japan Lonely Planet was well organized, included useful maps, and contained useful information. Therefore, when I purchased the Lonely Planet Taiwan I had similar expectations. However, the book has been fairly

disappointing. I find myself constantly checking the internet to double check information contained in the book. The maps are over simplified and outdated (they won't be that useful). The telephone numbers included will also be useless. The numbers included in the books do not include the area code (imagine getting a number for a hotel without the area code in the US). I noticed on that they released a 2011 version. Hopefully, this will fix some of the problems, but I'm a little skeptical.

Frustrating to read an entire section about a fascinating place only to discover at the end that you need your own car to go there. How many people reading this book have their own car in Taiwan?! Anyway the maps were moderately useful and it's more concise and well-organized than the Rough Guide, but neither of them are very good to be honest. Hopefully a 2010 or 2011 version will come out soon. However, if you are traveling to Taiwan, I'm sure you will love the place regardless of the poor travel books.

From time to time I get frustrated at Lonely Planet guidebooks due to a perceived "dumbing down." However, after sampling the competition several times I always come back to LP on account of the best maps, more listings for lodgings (although including 4 & 5 star hotels is no help), and more history.

A great guide for first timers in Taiwan, I bought this version more from a collection interest point of view than for actual data because this is from six years ago.

Remember the early 1990's version which I poured over prior to visiting Taiwan, and found it more personable than later versions. But I have been there many times by then, and no longer need a guide.

Going to Taiwan in October and I have really learned a lot from reading this book. Other reviewers have differing opinions perhaps because they have traveled there before, but for the Taiwan newbie there are some really helpful suggestions. Nothing beats Google and actually being there but this book is a nice start!

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