

Pa Cien Pagoda, Sun Moon Lake

The Dowling Club Tour to Taiwan
29 April—8 May 2027

With Optional Extension to Kenting
8—12 May 2027

AITO
The Specialist Travel Association

JON BAINES TOURS

Level 3
MODERATE



Taipei Skyline with Taipei 101

A fleck in the shimmering waters of the Western Pacific, Taiwan is brimming with history, and culture and has an appetite for technological innovation that is far beyond what its size might suggest. The island's distinctive identity has been shaped by its indigenous Austronesian population and centuries of settlement and colonisation. Geographically, it is spectacular, with a mountainous spine that runs east of its centre, separating the tropical western lowlands, where the vast majority of the population resides, from the rugged and forested east.

Begin in Taipei, a dynamic capital where modernity, embodied by Taipei 101, rises above the surrounding river valleys and wooded hills. Renowned for its world-class healthcare, impressive high-speed rail network and growing role as an Asian transport hub, the city is also home to vibrant night markets, museums and a buzzing food culture.

Head south to Sun Moon Lake, where mountains, serene waters and lakeside temples create a wonderfully meditative setting, before continuing to Tainan, a city rich in history, and heritage.
The tour also offers the rare and rewarding opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with our dermatology colleagues in Taiwan at the Taiwan Dermatology & Aesthetics Conference, strengthening bonds across borders in the true spirit of The Dowling Club.

For those wishing to extend their adventure spend three nights in the beautiful seaside location of Kenting.

THIS TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 3 | Moderate

Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and /or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Hotels

Humble House Taipei Hotel, Taipei
An elegant base in Taipei's central Xinyi District, surrounded by attractions. Enjoy city views from the Italian restaurant, terrace bar and rooftop pool, and unwind in comfortable, spacious rooms.

Sun Moon Lake Hotel, Sun Moon Lake
Set on the southern shore of Sun Moon Lake, the hotel enjoys lovely views of the surrounding mountains and water. A restaurant and bar complement plush, comfortable rooms.

The Place Tainan, Tainan
This well-located, contemporary hotel offers light-filled, well-equipped rooms. Guests can enjoy an à la carte restaurant, a lounge bar and a fitness room.





Humble House Taipei



Take the train back from Kenting to Taipei

Itinerary: 29 April - 8 May 2027

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

5 nights Taipei - 2 nights Sun Moon Lake – 2 nights Tainan



Tea House, Jiufen

Day 1: Taipei (Thu, 29 Apr) D

Am: Arrive and make your way to the hotel.

Pm: At leisure before a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Taipei (Fri, 30 Apr) B

Am: Tour of Taipei, visiting the National Palace Museum, home to a significant collection of Chinese imperial artefacts. Continue to the Martyrs' Shrine (National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine) to witness the solemn changing of the guard ceremony and learn about Taiwan's military history and national heroes.

Pm: Continue to Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, a landmark featuring classical Chinese-inspired architecture, expansive plazas and tranquil gardens. Then ascend Taipei 101 Observatory, via a high-speed elevator to enjoy panoramic views.

Day 3: Taipei (Sat, 1 May) B

Am/Pm: Attend Taiwan Dermatology & Aesthetics conference.

Day 4: Taipei (Sun, 2 May) B D

Am: Attend Taiwan Dermatology & Aesthetics conference. Optional Tour for Partners: Visit Yehliu Geopark, a magnificent natural landscape, famed for its spectacular rock formations, shaped by millions of years of wind and sea erosion. Continue to Zhongzheng Park, one of Keelung's most recognisable

landmarks, known for its impressive Guanyin statue.

Pm: Explore Shifen Old Street, renowned for its vintage charm and railway running through the heart of the village. Enjoy the Sky Lantern Experience, write your wish on a colourful lantern before releasing it into the sky for good fortune.

Eve: Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5: Taipei (Mon, 3 May) B

Am: Half day medical meeting.

Pm: Visit Jiufen Old Street, set in the green hills that surround Taipei. Stroll through the lively old street, browse local shops, and sample popular Taiwanese cuisine. At leisure.

Day 6: Taipei / Sun Moon Lake (Tues, 4 May) B D

Am: Depart Taipei, stopping at a scenic high-mountain tea plantation to learn about Taiwan's world-famous oolong tea. Discover the art of tea cultivation and processing with a local expert, followed by a tasting.

Pm: Continue to Sun Moon Lake and enjoy a cruise across Taiwan's most iconic alpine lake, surrounded by misty mountains and calm blue waters. Visit Wenwu Temple, known for its grand red pillars, intricate carvings and meditative views. Continue to Xuanzang Shrine, which is dedicated to the revered monk Xuanzang. Continue to the hotel and check in.

Eve: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 7: Sun Moon Lake (Wed, 5 May) B

Am/Pm: At leisure or optional bike ride around the lake.

Day 8: Sun Moon Lake / Tainan (Thu, 6 May) B L

Am: Travel to Tainan and explore the historic Anping district. Visit Anping Fort, originally built by the Dutch in 1624 as Fort Zeelandia, followed by Anping Tree House, a former warehouse that has been enveloped by banyan roots. Continue to the former Tait & Co. Merchant House, one of Taiwan's best-preserved 19th-century Western-style residences. Finally, discover Taiwan's oldest Confucian Temple, a peaceful sanctuary shaded by ancient trees.

Pm: Lunch at a local restaurant before visiting a local hospital in Tainan. Continue to the hotel and at leisure.



Day 9: Tainan (Fri, 7 May) B D

Am: Drive to Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.

Pm: Return to Tainan, stopping en route at Ten Drum Cultural Village, a former sugar refinery transformed into a vibrant cultural hub, where you will enjoy a powerful traditional drumming performance. At leisure before farewell dinner.

Day 10: Tainan / Taipei (Sat, 8 May) B

Am: Check out of the hotel and transfer to Tainan THSR Station for your high-speed train journey to Taoyuan, to connect to your return flight or join the extension.

Extension to Kenting: 8–12 May 2027

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

3 nights Kenting – 1 night Taipei

Day 10: Tainan / Kenting (Sat, 8 May) B

Am: Depart Tainan and en route visit Checheng Fu'an Temple, an important southern Taiwan temple dedicated to the Earth God. Continue to Hengchun Old Town, one of Taiwan's best-preserved walled towns, to explore its streets and historic gates. Visit Chuhuo Special Scenic Area, where natural gas seeps through the ground, creating natural flames. Finally, explore Eluanbi Lighthouse & Park, surrounded by tropical plants and spectacular coastal views.

Pm: Arrive in Kenting and check in.

Day 11: Kenting (Sun, 9 May) B

Am/Pm: At leisure or choose from a host of optional activities including; sika deer watching, a nighttime ecological tour, a night market walking tour and water-based activities such as scuba diving, stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking.

Day 12: Kenting (Mon, 10 May) B

Am/Pm: Choose from the available optional activities or enjoy a day at leisure.

Day 13: Kenting / Taipei (Tues, 11 May) B

Am: Transfer to Kaohsiung THSR Station for your high-speed train journey back to Taipei.

Pm: Arrive in Taipei and check in to the hotel before farewell dinner.

Day 14: Taipei (Wed, 12 May) B

Am: Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your return flight.

Hotels (extension)

Hotel Dua Kenting, Kenting
A modern hotel with elegant minimalist furnishings, where environmental considerations shape both its design and operations. The hotel is a certified Golden Green building, set in the heart of the main street district, a short walk from Kenting Night Market and Dawan Beach. There is a rooftop pool with beach views and a gym.

Cozzi Blu Hotel, Taipei
Carry the seaside spirit into your stay at the Cozzi Blu Hotel, a modern, centrally located hotel that combines a playful maritime theme with sophisticated accommodation.



Kenting, southern Taiwan









Martyrs Shrine, Taipei (top); Yegliu, Queen's Head; Sky Lanterns; Tea Plantation, Sun Moon Lake (above)

The cost of the tour per person sharing a double or twin room is £1,980

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is £2,764

The cost includes:

- 9 nights' accommodation in medium grade hotels based on a twin/double room.
- The services of a tour manager,
- The services of registered English-speaking guide to accompany the group for the duration of the tour
- A full programme of cultural visits, excursions and activities as detailed in the itinerary
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts, and lunch or dinner as specified
- All internal transport including airport transfers
- All admission fees and tips

The cost excludes:

- International flights
- Meals not mentioned
- Drinks not mentioned
- All optional excursions, tours and visits; all personal extras such as porterage, laundry and inoculation fees; travel insurance and visas, if applicable

The cost of the extension per person sharing a double or twin room is £660

The cost of the extension with a room to yourself is £1,128

The extension includes:

- 4 nights' accommodation in high grade hotels based on a twin/double room.
- Transfer
- All taxes

The extension excludes:

- As for main tour

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. We also ensure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to.

From the sublime to the humble, we provide a variety of experiences in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun!

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Sun Moon Lake,Wen Wu Temple (top); Confucius Temple, Tainan; Anping Tree House; Eluanbi Light House (above)

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