

Free China in brief

- Location:** About 100 miles off the coast of south-eastern China and between Japan and the Philippines on a line running north-southwest.
- Size:** Just under 14,000 square miles, or about the same as Holland.
- Topography:** Mountainous (the highest peak tops 13,000 feet) with a wide plain in the west and a narrow one in the east.
- Climate:** Subtropical with average temperature just under 71 F. in the north and nearly 76 in the south.
- Population:** Nearly 15.6 million as of early 1974.
- Big cities:** Taipei with nearly 2 million people is the temporary capital of the Republic of China. Kaohsiung, 225 miles south of Taipei, is an industrial port city with a population of nearly 1 million.
- People:** All Chinese except for about 265,000 aborigines.
- Language:** Chinese in the Mandarin, Amoy and Hakka dialects. Mandarin of Peiping dialect is taught in the schools. English and Japanese are widely spoken.
- History:** Aborigines reached Taiwan in prehistoric times. Chinese started coming about 1,400 years ago. Dutch and Spanish came to the island in the 17th century

- and the Japanese were in occupation from 1895 to 1945.
- Government:** Republic of China established January 1 1912, after fall of the Ch'ing dynasty. Written constitution and democratic system with free elections.
- Gross national product:** Reached US\$9.3 billion in 1973. Expected to exceed US\$12 billion in 1974 and US\$15 billion by the end of the 1970s. Industry contributes about 37 per cent of the GNP compared with 15 per cent for agriculture.
- Foreign trade:** More than US\$8.2 billion in 1973 with textiles as the leading export. The rate of growth exceeded 50 per cent in 1973.
- Leading industries:** Construction, power, textiles, electronics, petroleum and petrochemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, metals, chemicals, machinery.
- Leading crops:** Rice, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, pineapples, bananas, citrus.
- Transportation:** International by air (11 airlines) and ship. Domestic by air, rail and bus to all parts of the island.
- Communications:** Internationally by telephone, telex and cable; links with Pacific and Indian Ocean satellites. Domestically by telephone and telegraph. Three television networks and

- 111 radio stations.
- Living standard:** Per capita income of US\$467 in 1973
The living standard is one of Asia's highest outside Japan.
- Culture:** The world's principal repository of Chinese culture and the best place to see the Chinese way of life. Nearly 250,000 Chinese art treasures at the National Palace Museum.
- Food:** Outstanding Chinese cuisine of several provinces. Western, Japanese and Korean cooking also available.
- Religion:** Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity and Islam in a totally free atmosphere.
- Education:** More than 27 per cent of the population enrolled in school. Nine years of free public education. More than 100 institutions of higher learning.
- Sports:** World championship boys' baseball teams and improving basketball teams. Outstanding golfers and courses. All standard sports gaining in popularity.
- Tourism:** Cultural, urban and scenic attractions which drew nearly 825,000 visitors in 1973. Traditional Chinese hospitality for tourists from all the countries of the free world.

Contents

Introduction to Taiwan.....	1
People.....	7
Way of life	11
Government.....	21
Education.....	27
Arts and crafts.....	35
Economy.....	41
Agriculture.....	45
Industry.....	51
Transportation and communications.....	57
Cities and urban development.....	63
Social security.....	65
Mass communications.....	69
Tourism.....	73
Free China versus Chinese Communism.....	79

Introduction

1. What and where is Taiwan?

Taiwan, also known as Formosa, is an island situated off the southeastern coast of the Chinese mainland and separated from Fukien province by the Straits of Taiwan, which has a width of from 90 to 120 miles. The southern tip of the island is 225 miles north of the Philippines and the northern tip 665 miles southwest of Japan. South-central Taiwan is bisected by the Tropic of Cancer.

2. What is the climate like?

Climate is subtropical but not unpleasantly so. The average temperature is 70.9 F. in the north and 75.7 F. in the south. Summer lasts from May to October. There is a mild winter in January and February. Rainfall is heavy, averaging 101 inches annually in the north. Local and seasonal variations are numerous. The north has its

heaviest rainfall in the winter and the south in the summer. Snow occurs in the higher mountains during the winter. Mt. Hohuan has ski runs and a lift.

3. How big is Taiwan?

The island has an area of 13,808 square miles. Included within the provincial jurisdiction are the 64 small islands of the Penghu (Pescadores) group and 13 other scattered islands. The total land area is 13,885 square miles. Also under the effective control of the government of the Republic of China are two island groups just off the Communist-held Chinese mainland. These are Kinmen (Quemoy) with an area of about 60 square miles and Matsu with an area of about 10 square miles.

Taiwan is slightly larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut combined and slightly smaller than Holland.