TAIPEI, Taiwan
Area:
- City: 271.7997 km²
- Water: 2.7 km² (1.0%)
- Urban: 2,457 km²

Population:
- City: 2,619,920
- Density: 9,639.16/km²
- Urban: 6,752,826
- Metro: 10,072,918
HISTORY

Taipei was founded in the early 18th century and became an important center for overseas trade in the 19th century. The Japanese acquired Taiwan in 1895 after the First Sino-Japanese War and made Taipei the island’s capital. The Republic of China took over the island in 1945 after Japan’s defeat in World War II. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek declared Taipei the provisional capital of the Republic of China in December 1949 after Kuomintang (KMT) was defeated by Communists during the Chinese Civil War. The KMT retreated to Taiwan and the jurisdiction of the Republic of China was limited to Taiwan while the Communist Party founded the People’s Republic of China in mainland China.

Han Chinese began to settle in the Taipei Basin in 1709.

In 1875, the northern part of Taiwan was separated from Taiwan Prefecture and incorporated into the new Taipei Prefecture. Having been established adjoining the flourishing townships of Bangkah and Twatutia, the new prefectural capital was known as Chengnei, “the inner city”, and government buildings were erected there.

Taipei remained a temporary provincial capital before it officially became the capital of Taiwan in 1894.

As settlement for losing the Sino-Japanese War, China ceded the entire island of Taiwan to Japan in 1895. After the Japanese takeover, Taipei, called Taihoku in Japanese, emerged as the political center of the Japanese Colonial Government.

Much of the architecture of Taipei dates from the period of Japanese rule, including the Presidential Building which was the Office of the Taiwan Governor-General.

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1709

1875

1894

1895

1945

1960

1990

2007

Upon the Japanese defeat in the Pacific War and its consequent surrender in August 1945, Taiwan was taken over by Chinese Nationalist troops.

Subsequently, a temporary Office of the Taiwan Province Administrative Governor was established in Taipei City.

Taipei was the capital of Taiwan Province until the 1960s when the provincial administration was moved to Chungshih Village in central Taiwan. (The PRC does not recognize this move and still regards Taipei as the provincial capital of Taiwan.)

As approved on December 30, 1967 by Executive Yuan, Taiwan became a centrally administered municipality on July 1, 1967.

In the following year, Taipei City expanded again by annexing Shilin, Beitou, Neihu, Nangang, Jingmei, and Muzha.

In 1990, 16 districts in Taipei City were consolidated into the current 12 districts.

Chen Shui-bian of the DPP, was elected as the first non-KMT* President and was re-elected to serve his second and last term since 2004.

On September 30, 2007, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party approved a resolution asserting separate identity from China and called for the enactment of a new constitution for a “normal country.” It also called for general use of “Taiwan” as the island’s name, without abolishing its formal name, the Republic of China.

*Kuomintang of China-Chinese Nationalist Party

*Ketagalan tribes (Taiwanese aboriginal)
...other historical references

Even though very little ancient architecture remains in Taipei, four of Taipei’s five original city gates still stand. The city walls which surrounded the old city and the West Gate were demolished by the Japanese to make way for roads and railway lines. Of the four gates still standing, the Kuomintang renovated three of them in its effort to “sinicize” Taipei and converted them from the original southern Chinese architecture to northern Chinese palace style architecture, leaving only the North Gate in its original Qing Dynasty splendour today. This gate sits forlornly in the traffic circle where the Zhonghua, Yanping and Boai roads meet.
DEMOGRAPHICS

ETHNIC GROUPS

22.9 MILLION

98% Han Chinese

70%
Min-nan *1

15%
Hakka *2

2%
Taiwanese aborigines

13 MAJOR GROUPS
Ami, Atayal, Paiwan, Bunun, Rukai, Puyuma, Taisi, Saisiyat, Tao, Thao, Kavalan, Truku and Sakizaya.

*1 migrated from the coastal Southern Fujian (Min-nan) region in the southeast of mainland China;
*2 migrated south to Guangdong, its surrounding areas and Taiwan
LANGUAGES

Min-nan

Mandarin

Taiwanese Minnan

Aboriginal minority groups still speak their native languages, although most also speak Mandarin.

RELIGION

93% - combination of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism;

4.5% - Christianism

2.5% - Islam & others
GEOGRAPHY
Taipei lies in the relatively narrow, bowl-shaped valley of the Danshui and two of its main tributaries, the Jilong (Keelung) and Xindian (Sindian) rivers. The generally low-lying terrain of the central areas on the western side of the municipality slopes upward to the south and east and especially to the north, where it reaches 1,120 metres (or 3,675 feet) at Cising Mountain. The climate is humid subtropical, with hot, muggy, rainy summers and cool, damp winters. It is also the political, economic, and cultural center of the country.
Because of its location in a valley, Taipei City commonly experiences high temperatures and humidity during the summer months, a problem enhanced by the high population density and the use of air conditioning.

Taiwan's climate is subtropical.

The Northern part of the island has a rainy season that lasts from January to late March during the southwest monsoon, and also experiences meiyu in May. The entire island succumbs to hot humid weather from June until September, while October to December are arguably the most pleasant times of year. The middle and southern parts of the island do not have an extended monsoon season during the winter months, but can experience several weeks of rain, especially during and after Lunar New Year.

Natural hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes are common in the region.

The average annual temperature is 23.6 °C (74.5 °F), with a summer average of 29.4 °C (84.9 °F) and a winter average of 11.0 °C (51.8 °F). The Pacific typhoon season occurs between June and October.
ADMINISTRATION
TAIWAN
The Republic of China (the ROC - administrative governing body of Taiwan) ruled China until the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, at which time the Communist Party of China (the CPC - administrative governing body of mainland China) gained control of the mainland China, and the administration of the Republic of China (the ROC) retreated to the island of Taiwan (and some outlying islands of Fujian) where it currently remains today.

TAIPEI
Taipei City, Taipei County, and Keelung City together form the Taipei metropolitan area but are administered under different local government bodies. Taipei City is a special municipality administered directly under the Executive Yuan, while Taipei County and Keelung City are administered as part of Taiwan Province. Taipei commonly refers to the whole metropolitan area, while Taipei City refers to the city proper. Taipei's city government is headed by a mayor who is elected by direct popular vote. A secretary-general assists the mayor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qu</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zhongzheng-qu</td>
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<td>Datong-qu</td>
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<td>31.5090</td>
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ECONOMY

TAIWAN

Today Taiwan has a dynamic capitalist, export-driven economy with gradually decreasing state involvement in investment and foreign trade. In keeping with this trend, some large government-owned banks and industrial firms are being privatized. Exports have provided the primary impetus for industrialization. The trade surplus is substantial, and foreign reserves are the world’s fifth largest as of 31 December 2007. Taiwan’s current GDP (PPP) per capita is equal to the average of EU Countries.

TAIPEI

Taipei has been at the centre of rapid economic development in the country and has now become one of the global cities in the production of high technology and its components. Taipei is part of a major industrial area. Most of Taiwan’s textile factories are here, and other products include electronics, electrical machinery and appliances, wires and cables, and refrigeration equipment. Shipbuilding, including yachts and other pleasure craft, is done in the port of Keelung east of the city.

Railways and bus lines connect Taipei with all parts of the island. The city is served by the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport west of the city in Taoyuan. Services, including those related to commerce, transportation, and banking, have become increasingly important.

Tourism is a small but significant component of the local economy. (China Airlines is headquartered in Taipei.)

TRANSPORTATION

All scheduled international flights are served by Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in nearby Taoyuan County. Songshan Airport at the heart of the city serves mostly domestic flights, with the exception of some charter flights.

Taipei’s public transport system, the Taipei Metro [commonly referred to as the MRT], incorporates a metro and light rail system based on advanced VAL and Bombardier technology. In addition to the rapid transit system itself, the Taipei Metro also includes several public facilities such as the Maokong Gondola, underground shopping malls, parks, and public squares.

Customer satisfaction with the Taipei Metro, at over 94% in 2008, ranks it as possibly the best public transport system worldwide.

Taipei Main Station serves as the comprehensive hub for bus transportation, the Metro, Taiwan Rail, and Taiwan High Speed Rail.

A popular form of transportation in Taipei (and much of Taiwan) is the motor-scooter. Motor-scooters are not subject to all conventional traffic laws, and generally thread between cars and occasionally through oncoming traffic.
ENVIRONMENT AND POLLUTION
With its high population density and many factories, some areas in Taiwan suffer from heavy pollution. Most notable are the southern suburbs of Taipei and the western stretch from Tainan to Lin Yuan, south of Kaohsiung. In the past, Taipei suffered from extensive vehicle and factory air pollution, but with mandatory use of unleaded gasoline and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, the air quality of Taiwan has improved dramatically.

AIR QUALITY
Motor vehicle engine exhaust, particularly from motor scooters, is a source of air pollution in Taipei. The levels of fine particulate matter, including PAHs, are consistently more serious in the mornings as there is less air movement; sunlight helps clear up some pollutants, which tend to be trapped close to the ground.

NATURAL RESOURCES
The remaining forests nowadays do not contribute to significant timber production mainly because of concerns about production costs and environmental regulations.

Camphor oil extraction and cane sugar production played an important role in Taiwan’s exportation from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. The importance of the above industries subsequently declined not because of the exhaustion of related natural resources but mainly of the decline of international market demands.

Nowadays, few natural resources with significant economic value are retained in Taiwan, which are essentially agriculture-associated. Domestic agriculture (rice being the dominant kind of crop) and fisheries retain importance to a certain degree, but they have been greatly challenged by foreign imports since Taiwan’s accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001. Consequently, upon the decline of subsistent importance,

Taiwan’s agriculture now relies heavily on the marketing and exportation of certain kinds of specialty fruits, such as banana, guava, lychee, wax apple, and high-mountain tea.
ENERGY RESOURCES
Taiwan has significant coal deposits and some insignificant petroleum and natural gas deposits.

Electrical power generation is nearly 55% coal-based, 18% nuclear power, 17% natural gas, 5% oil, and 5% from renewable energy sources.

Nearly all oil and gas for transportation and power needs must be imported, making Taiwan particularly sensitive to fluctuations in energy prices.

Because of this, Taiwan’s Executive Yuan is pushing for 10% of energy generation to come from renewable energy by 2010, double from the current figure of approximately 5%.

Taiwan is rich in wind energy resources, both onshore and offshore, though limited land area favors offshore wind resources.

Solar energy is also a potential resource to some extent.

By promoting renewable energy, Taiwan’s government hopes to also aid the nascent renewable energy manufacturing industry, and develop it into an export market.
CULTURE/NOTABLE BUILDINGS
CHIANG KAI-SHEK MEMORIAL HALL
The National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is a famous monument erected in memory of Chiang Kai-shek, former President of the Republic of China. It is located in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

The monument, surrounded by a park, stands at the east end of the Gate of Great Centrality and Perfect Uprightness. The structure is framed on the north and south by the National Theater and National Concert Hall. The entire plaza is located within sight of the Presidential Office Building.
TAIPEI 101
Designed by C.Y. Lee & Partners and constructed primarily by KTRT Joint Venture, is the world's tallest completed skyscraper.

Its postmodern style combines Asian and international modern and traditional elements. It is designed to withstand typhoons and earthquakes. A multi-level shopping mall adjoining the tower houses hundreds of fashionable stores, restaurants and clubs.

SYMBOLISM
Taipei 101, like all spire structures, participates in the symbolism of the axis mundi: a world center where earth and sky meet and the four compass directions join.

The height of 101 floors commemorates the renewal of time: the new century that arrived as the tower was built (100+1) and all the new years that follow (January 1 = 1-01). It symbolizes high ideals by going one better on 100, a traditional number of perfection.

The main tower features a series of eight segments of eight floors each. In Chinese-speaking cultures the number eight is associated with abundance, prosperity and good fortune.
SHIN KONG LIFE TOWER

Shin Kong Life Tower is one of the tallest buildings in Taiwan at 51 stories, 244.15 metres (801.0 ft). The rose-coloured skyscraper topped by a pyramid stands in Zhongzheng District, Taipei.

The Shin Kong Life Tower represents a pioneering response by Taiwan's building planners to the challenge of providing high-rise architecture in a demanding environment that could unite the functions of office building, shopping centre and public square. A decade later Taipei 101 offered a superlative realization of the same ambition.
PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE BUILDING
The Presidential Office Building houses the Office of the President of the Republic of China. The building, located in the Zhongzheng District in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China, was designed by architect Uheiji Nagano during the period of Japanese rule of Taiwan (1895-1945).

DESIGN
The Presidential Office Building occupies the city block between Chongqing South Road and Bo’ai Road in downtown Taipei. It is designed in the shape of two squares stretching from Baoqing Road to Guigang Street. The 130 meter-wide facade faces east down multi-lane Ketagalan Boulevard. This reflects the concerns of its Japanese architects, who often oriented important structures toward the rising sun at the head of long avenues.
SUN YAT-SEN MEMORIAL HALL
It is a memorial to the Republic of China’s National Father, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and was completed on May 16, 1972. As the hall was opened in the very beginning, its main displays were revolutionary events of the national father at the end of the Qing Dynasty. Recently it became a multi-purpose social, educational and cultural center for the Taiwanese public.
RED HOUSE THEATER
The Red House Theater, often called the "Red Theater" or "Red Play House" in English, is a historic theater in the Ximending area of Taipei, Taiwan. Built in 1908 during Japanese rule and designed by Japanese architect Kondo Juro, it was originally a market building but was used as a theater from 1945 onwards.
ZHINAN TEMPLE
Zhinan Temple or Chihnan Temple is a Taoist temple in Muzha, Taipei, Taiwan. The temple's main deity is Lü Dongbin, one of the Eight Immortals. The temple, built in 1890, can be reached by a staircase of 1200 steps.
RAILWAY PROJECT

- Site Area: 6657.86 (biz area 5765.13)
- Site Location: Biz and street area
- Construction Area: 93381.94 m²
- Floor Area Ratio: 560%
- Urban Renewal Reward Volume: 33.29%
- Urban Renewal Reward Area: 12.5%
- Sale Area: 75305.90
- Parking lot: Cars / Motorcycle: 400
LIGHT INCIDENCE ANALYSIS ON SITE
MAXIMUM VOLUME (full plot) 75 000 m²
MAXIMUM VOLUME (perimeter) 75 000 m²
MAXIMUM VOLUME (towers) 75 000 m²
PERIMETER BLOCK VERSION 2
PERIMETER BLOCK VERSION 4
PERIMETER BLOCK VERSION 5
CARVED INTERIOR
TWISTING TOWERS VERSION 2
IMBRICATED VOLUMES
OTHER SKETCH MODELS