



Taiwan: Past and Present


台灣今與昔

In 1544, Portuguese sailors passed a leaf-shaped island southeast of China. **Espying**¹ lush,² green forests, they recorded in their ship log the words “Ilha Formosa” — the Beautiful Island.

Things have changed dramatically in the half millennium that has passed. The island has gone through Dutch and Japanese colonial rule, half a century of martial law, and rapid industrialization. Taiwan is now famous for its tech know-how,³ with gigantic science parks producing most of the world’s semiconductors. Meanwhile, companies like HTC, Asus and Acer have achieved global status. The cities are crowded and hectic, but there’s always something going on, whether it’s a colorful and **clamorous**² religious **procession**³ or a chance to sample delicious snacks at one of the hundreds of night markets around the island. With the beautiful, rugged⁴ interior largely

intact,⁴ Taiwan remains a relatively **untapped** for nature lovers. Beware, though, this tropical paradise can be **ravaged**⁶ by typhoons summer to fall.

Taiwan has consistently exported entertainment. In the 1970s and 1980s, songs by Teresa Teng was the toast⁵ of Asia, while these days stars like Jolin Tsai and Jay Chou enjoy **widespread** popularity. Taiwanese talent has also **flourished** in the movie industry, with double-Oscar winning director Ang Lee hailed as the pride of the nation. For art house⁷ connoisseurs,⁸ director Hou Hsien is considered a master filmmaker. Baseball is also a passion on the island, and this year’s World Baseball Classic brought the nation to a fever pitch.

A **vibrant**⁹ and diverse country, Taiwan has something for everyone. 

1544 年時，葡萄牙水手經過中國東南方的一座
片型島嶼。意外發現茂密綠色森林的他們在航行日
記下「美麗島嶼」這個字。

五百年過後，情況有了極大變化。這座島嶼經歷
與日本的殖民統治、半世紀的戒嚴時期以及快速
工業化。台灣現在以科技技術著稱，巨大的科技園
產出世界多數的半導體產品。同時，宏達電、華碩
等公司也躋身世界級的地位。城市擁擠且繁
華，但仍然精采可期，無論是有趣熱鬧的宗教遊行，
還是在全台數百個夜市品嚐美味小吃的機會。台灣
風景、高低起伏的內陸大多保持原始樣貌，對自然愛
者來說仍是相對未開發的樂園。不過要小心，這個
天堂在夏秋之際可能會遭到颱風的侵襲。

台灣一直出口其娛樂產業。1970 和 1980 年代
，女歌手鄧麗君是亞洲的大咖，而如今蔡依林和周
慧敏等明星受到廣大的歡迎。台灣的人才也在電影界
大放異彩，兩屆奧斯卡得主的導演李安被譽為國家之
光。對藝術電影院行家來說，侯孝賢被認為是大師級
導演。台灣民眾也熱愛棒球，今年的世界經典棒球
賽造成舉國狂熱。

充滿活力又多樣化，台灣讓每個人都能挖到寶。



- 1 翠綠茂密的茶園梯田。
- 2 職棒熱潮再次傳遍全台灣。
- 3 如詩如畫的武陵櫻花。
- 4 急馳而過的火車與鮮黃的油菜花交織出台灣特有的風情畫。

Key Words 字彙最前線

1. **espy** [ɪsˈpaɪ] *v.* 看見 (意外的東西)
Juliette espied a copy of the book she was looking for in the corner of the store.

2. **clamorous** [klæməərəs] *adj.* 喧嚷的
The street parade was a clamorous but enjoyable affair.

3. **procession** [prəˈseʃən] *n.* (人或車輛等的) 隊伍
The funeral procession made its way through the streets.

4. **intact** [ɪnˈtækt] *adj.* 完整無缺的
I was happy to find that my cell phone was intact after I dropped it in the street.

5. **untapped** [ʌnˈtæpt] *adj.* 未開發的
When the Spanish discovered the Inca Empire in the 16th century, they saw it as a source of untapped wealth.

7. **widespread** [waɪdˌspred] *adj.* 廣泛的
The artist used to be known only in his country, but he now enjoys widespread fame.

8. **flourish** [ˈflaɪʃ] *v.* 活躍；蓬勃
Arts and crafts flourish in this part of the country.

9. **vibrant** [vaɪbrənt] *adj.* 鮮活的
The city enjoys a vibrant music scene.

字彙補給站

- + lush [lʌʃ] *adj.* 蒼翠繁茂的
- + know-how [noʊˈhaʊ] *n.* 技能
- + rugged [ˈrʌɡɪd] *adj.* 高低不平的
- + songstress [sɒŋstrəs] *n.* 女歌手
- + toast [tɔɪst] *n.* 受尊敬的對象
- + art house 藝術電影院
- + connoisseur [ˌkɒnəˈseɪə] *n.* (藝術) 行家

Formosa Bound

福爾摩沙伴我行

bound 當形容詞指「打算前去的」，當名詞為「領域」的意思，標題則兼取兩義，點出芭芭拉即將造訪台灣一事。



圖片提供 / Nicky Fernandes (flickr)



艾倫 (Aaron) 和朋友芭芭拉 (Barbara) 正用電話討論她來台灣旅遊的行程。

A: So, when are you coming to visit me, Barbara? Formosa's calling!¹

那麼，芭芭拉，妳何時要來台灣在呼喚妳呢！

B: I'm thinking late September. Is that a good time?

我想九月下旬吧。這個時間好

A: I think that'd be perfect. Things start to cool off, and it's the **tail end**¹ of typhoon season.

我覺得很理想。天氣開始變涼，且那時是颱風季的末尾。

B: Great. Naturally, I want to **chow down on** some night market food, and I'm hoping to check out the latest electronics.

太棒了。當然，我想大嚼夜市食物，而且我希望能去看看電子產品。

A: That's all **squared away**. I'll take you to some of my favorite eating spots, and Guanghua Digital Plaza should **slake**² your thirst for **gadgetry**.³

都準備好在等妳了。我會帶妳去我最喜歡的小吃店，而光華數位廣場應該能一解妳對小型電子產品的渴望。

B: How about escaping the **big smoke** for a couple of days?

遠離大城市幾天如何？

the big smoke 指「大的城鎮或都市」。

A: Sure thing. The great thing about Taiwan is you're never far from the mountains. Taipei has some **awesome**⁴ hiking trails within minutes of downtown.

沒問題。台灣有個很棒的地，山總離妳不遠。台北有些蠻棒的山步道，離市區僅數分鐘之遙。

B: Excellent. I'm already **champing at the bit!**

太棒了。我已經迫不及待了。

Key Words 字彙最前線

- tail end** 終了；末尾
We enjoyed the start of the movie, but the tail end wasn't great.
- slake** [sleɪk] v. 消解
The jungle trek slaked Tamara's desire for adventure.
- gadgets** [ˈɡædʒətri] n. 小型電子產品
When you visit Tokyo, be sure to check out the latest gadgets.
- awesome** [ˈɔːsəm] adj. 非常好的（口語）
We've had some awesome weather recently.

補充說明

此處用法取自 Formosa Calling 《福爾摩沙的呼喚》這本書，作者為紐西蘭工程師 Allan Shackleton，書中記錄著他所目睹的二二八事件。文中則純粹取字面意義，表示艾倫期待芭芭拉造訪台灣。

Phrase Focus 片語威力通

- **chow down on** 吃下大量的東西
Let's chow down on some good food tonight.
我們今晚去大嚼一些好料吧。
- **square away** 準備就緒；處理完畢
With the kids in bed and the housework done, Jean felt that everything was squared away.
小孩已上床睡覺且家事已做完，琴覺得一切都處理好了。
- **champ at the bit** 迫不及待
Having waited all year for this vacation, I am now champing at the bit to get away.
等這個假期等了一整年的我，此刻迫不及待要離開。

champ 現在常被誤用為 chomp。

Attractions include modern marvels such as Taipei 101 and the Maokong Gondola, as well as areas of scenic beauty like Sun Moon Lake and Taroko Gorge.

景點包括台北一〇一和貓空纜車等現代奇觀以及日月潭和大魯閣等風景秀麗的地區。

Food is always an important aspect of any visit to Taiwan, and a wide variety of styles and flavors is available catering to all budgets—from cheap and cheerful snacks to Chinese haute cuisine.

造訪台灣，美食絕對是重點之一，各式各樣的風格與口味能符合所有預算，從便宜美味的點心到中式高級料理都有。

介紹台灣好用句

There are so many fascinating festivals in Taiwan, ranging from small local events to nationwide celebrations. One of the most spectacular is the triennial Donggang King Boat Ceremony.

台灣有很多美好的節日，從小的地方活動到舉國慶祝的都有。最引人注目的節慶之一為每三年一次的東港王船祭。

畫線處為固定句型，可搭配符合文意詞彙作變換。

