

The Heart of Asia & Chrysanthemum Tour

Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau & Zhongshan

Traveling Dates :
Nov 10 – 26, 2024 (17 Days)

Alishan Forest Railway



Price per person:

from \$5,388

Incl. Tax & Fuel Surcharge

Single Supp: \$1,800

Tour Package Includes

- * International Flight from Honolulu
- * **5*** Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- * **2** Most Popular Ranking Scenic Spots in Taiwan:
 - Sun Moon Lake with Boat Ride
 - Alishan (Mt. Ali) National Scenic Area with Forest Railway
- * Hands-on Experience:
 - Paper Making
 - Steamed Brown Sugar Buns
- * Natural Hot Spring Hotels (**2** Nights)
- * Night Market Experience
- * Crossing the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge
- * UNESCO World Heritage Site – The Ruins of St. Paul's in Macau
- * Chrysanthemum Festival in Zhongshan
- * Unlimited Shopping Pleasure
- * Local Specialty Cuisine: Din Tai Fung Soup Dumplings, Cantonese Dim Sum, Roast Goose Banquet, Chrysanthemum Banquet ...
- * Gratuity for Tour Guides & Drivers



Hong Kong

Cities and Area Covered: Taoyuan, Nantou, Alishan, Tainan, Taipei, Hong Kong, Macau & Zhongshan

Day 1Nov 10****Honolulu → Taipei (Taoyuan)**

We start our vacation by boarding an international flight bound for Taoyuan, a city that went from a satellite city of the Taipei metropolitan area to becoming the fourth-largest metropolitan area and fifth-largest populated city in Taiwan. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2Nov 11****Taipei (Taoyuan)**

Upon arrival at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, an Air & Sea Travel representative will greet us. And we will transfer to our hotel near the airport.

*Hotel Accommodation: Novotel Taipei Taoyuan International Airport or Similar 5**

Day 3* Nov 12**Taipei (Taoyuan) – Sun Moon Lake (Nantou)** ☪**(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we will proceed south to **Nantou County**, the only landlocked county in Taiwan. Surrounded by mountains, Nantou is abundant in tourism resources, with picturesque scenery everywhere. **The Puli Brewery Factory** is devoted to establishing the landmark feature of Puli as the Hometown of Shaoxing (Shaohsing) Wine. Aside from actively promoting the culture of Shaoxing (Shaohsing) Wine, there are also putting more efforts in preserving the history of the winery, it is the first Wine Culture Museum in Taiwan. After lunch, we will visit the **Guangxing Paper Factory** to learn the history of handmade paper and skills required for papermaking. We will see the processes used to make paper: boiling and washing fibers, making pulp, forming paper, pressing excess water and drying. We will also experience a **DIY** activity: **Making a Paper Fan** using ancient printing techniques. **Sun Moon Lake** is the largest body of water in Taiwan and a popular tourist attraction. The lake surrounds a tiny island called Lalu and the east side resembles a sun while the west side resembles a moon, hence the name. Upon arrival, we will visit **The Hanbi Trail**. The Hanbi Trail area used to be called "Hand Net Land," as the terrain reminded people of the hand nets used by the ancestors for fishing. Beautiful views are provided by the verdant mountains, winding lake shores and azure blue water of Sun Moon Lake. After that, we will check in to our **Natural Hot Springs Hotel** in **Sun Moon Lake** and enjoy our dinner at the hotel.

*Hotel Accommodation: Fleur de Chine Hotel Sun Moon Lake or Similar 5**

Day 4* Nov 13**Sun Moon Lake (Nantou)** ☪**(B, D)**

Today, we will take a **Boat Ride** from **Sheshui Terminal** to **Syuan Guang Temple** which lies between Sun Lake and Moon Lake. A golden idol of Master Syuanzang, above which is written, "Great National Scholar" is inside. Then, we will spend our day in **Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village**, an amusement park in Nantou. The park contains the tallest free-fall ride in Taiwan as well as Taiwan's largest European gardens and bell tower. In this amusement park, we can enjoy different entertainment attractions. One of the most popular programs at the Culture Village is *the splendid aboriginal folk dance show* at Naruwan Theatre, performed by representatives from Taiwan's nine aborigine tribes. We can also enjoy the show in Pestle Music Theatre for performances of *traditional aboriginal instruments* and the Culture Square for the *welcome and farewell show*. These are must see at Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village. After a long day of activities, we will return to our hot spring hotel.

Day 5* Nov 14**Sun Moon Lake (Nantou) – Alishan National Scenic Area****(B, L, D)**

Today's highlight is **Alishan National Scenic Area**, one of the major landmarks associated with Taiwan. 250 years ago, a chief of the Tsou tribe had a successful hunting trip on a mountain and in memory of him, the tribe named the mountain "Alishan". The song "Alishan de guniang" (Chinese: 阿里山的姑娘; English: The Girls of Alishan) refers to the beautiful girls of the Tsou aborigine tribe and is one of Taiwan's most popular folk songs. It is also well known in China and several foreign countries. Upon arrival, we will first visit **Yuyupas**. It is an indigenous cultural park about the Tsou Tribe, an indigenous people of central southern Taiwan located in Alishan, Chiayi County. The name Yuyupas means rich and safe in Tsou. The exhibition hall displays items from their everyday life from hunting gear to clothing. We will enjoy the performance that shows the original ecology of the Tsou traditional song and dance. After lunch, we will check-in to our hotel in Alishan. Tonight, we will enjoy dinner at the hotel in Alishan.

Hotel Accommodation: Alishan Hotel or Similar

Day 6* Nov 15**Alishan National Scenic Area – Tainan****(B, L, D)**

This morning, we can have a chance to watch the sunrise over the Alishan National Scenic Area feels like being in a dream—thick white clouds cover the valley below and towering mountaintops look like tiny islands in an endless ocean. Then, we will return to our hotel for breakfast. **Alishan Forest Railway**, a 54 mile network of narrow railways running up to and throughout the mountain resort of Alishan. This tourist attraction with unique Z-shaped switchbacks, 50 tunnels, and over 77 wooden bridges is one of only three mountain rails in the world. After lunch, we will transfer to

Tainan, the former capital and the most antique city of Taiwan, famous for its historic buildings. **Mangrove Green Tunnel**. Mangrove is a tropical tree that grows in or near water and grows new roots from its branches. We will take a boat tour to the mangrove green tunnel and the wetlands along Sihcao Wildlife Preserve, a protected ecological environment in Tainan. Our next stop is Fort Zeelandia, known as **Anping Fort**, the first fortress built in Taiwan. It was constructed in the 17th century by the Dutch East India Company and served as an international business center for trading operations. Then, we will walk around in the **Anping Old Street**. After dinner, we will check in to our hotel.

*Hotel Accommodation: Silks Place Tainan or Similar 5**

Day 7* Nov 16	Tainan	(B, L)
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After breakfast, we will visit a century-old sugar refinery in Tainan known as the **Ten Drum Cultural Village**. Once a historical sight that played a significant role in economic development, the sugar factory has now been remodeled into a modernized park infused with Taiwanese culture and features of the past. After lunch, we will visit **The Chimei Museum**. It is a private museum established in 1992 by Shi Wen-long of Chi Mei Corporation. The museum's collection is divided into five categories: Fine arts (including painting, sculpture, decorative arts and period furniture); Musical instruments; Natural history and fossils; Arms and armor; Antiquities and artifacts. The museum is known for housing the world's largest violin collection and for its significant collections of ancient weapons and sculptures. The **Hayashi Department Store** is another Cultural Historic Monument. It was originally completed and opened on December 5th, 1932 and was bombed by United States airplanes at the end of World War II. Today the building is a Cultural Creative Department Store of Tainan City. **The Tainan Flower Night Market** is a tourism night market in North District. It is often considered to be the largest and most famous night market in the city. We will then walk around and experience Taiwan's nightlife. Enjoy dinner on your own in the night market before returning to the hotel.

Day 8**Nov 17	Tainan – Taipei	(B, L, D)
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After breakfast, we will travel back to Taipei. On the way, we will stop at **Rainbow Village**, a military dependents' village that was converted into street art in Taichung. This unique village is a true feast for the eyes, with its lively and whimsical artwork adorning every corner. After lunch, we will visit **Xin Cheng Feng Tang**. Xin Cheng Feng Tang was originally conceived to promote the community. Creating a friendly environment has always been the central concept. No pesticides or fertilizers are used in the sugarcane orchard. The park has a variety of sugarcane-themed DIY or food farming experiences. We will have a chance to make the **Brown Sugar Steamed Buns**. Tonight, we will enjoy our dinner at Taiwan's iconic **Din Tai Fung**, a world-famous, award-winning restaurant specializing in Xiaolongbao (small steamed dumplings).

*Hotel Accommodation: Regent Taipei or Similar 5**

Day 9* Nov 18	Taipei – Hong Kong	(B)
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After breakfast, we can enjoy our free time until transfer to Taoyuan airport and take our flight to **Hong Kong**. Hong Kong is one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities where East truly meets West. It is one of the world's most significant financial centers, shopping and food paradise cities. An Air & Sea Travel representative will greet and escort us to the hotel.

*Hotel Accommodation: The Kimberley Hotel or Similar 4**

Day 10**Nov 19	Hong Kong	(B)
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After breakfast at the hotel, we will have a **half-day tour** to see the legendary highlights of Hong Kong, from its sweeping vistas to its most intimate corners. **Victoria Harbour**, the most incredible views of the Symphony of Lights and Hong Kong Island's skyline over the water before your host guides you through the maze of streets that make up this exciting area. **Avenue of Stars**, modelled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, is an avenue located along the Victoria Harbour waterfront in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. It honours celebrities of the Hong Kong film industry. **Golden Bauhinia Square** is the emblem of Hong Kong. The Forever Blooming Bauhinia Sculpture that gives the Expo Promenade the commonly used name, Golden Bauhinia Square, was a gift from the Central Government to mark the 1997 Handover — an occasion that held tremendous significance for the world's largest nation and that stands out as a landmark event in 20th-century history. In the afternoon, we can enjoy the rest of day on our own.

Day 11**Nov 20	Hong Kong – Macau	(B)
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After enjoying breakfast in the hotel, please enjoy free time in the morning. Then we will transfer to Macau by crossing **The Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge**. This bridge is a 55-kilometre bridge–tunnel system

consisting of a series of three cable-stayed bridges, an undersea tunnel, and four artificial islands. It is both the longest sea crossing and the longest open-sea fixed link in the world. Upon arrival Macau, we will transfer to our hotel and enjoy the rest of day on our own. **Macau**, the biggest casino city in the world and one of the oldest European Settlements in the Orient.

*Hotel Accommodation: Sheraton Grand Macao or Similar 5**

Day 12**Nov 21	Macau	(B)
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Today, we will have a city tour in Macau. First stop, **The Ruins of St. Paul's**, a grand imposing facade of an early 16th century church designed by Italians and built by Japanese Christian exiles. Now, it is one of Macau's best known landmarks and officially listed as part of Macau's historic center, the 31st designated UNESCO World Heritage site in China. **Monte Fort** is a fort in Santo António in Macau. It is the historical military center. The fort forms part of the "Historic Centre of Macau" and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next, we will go to **A-Ma Temple**, a temple to the Chinese sea-goddess Mazu located in São Lourenço, Macau and built in 1488. **Rua do Cunha**, is known for souvenir shops selling almond cakes, phoenix egg rolls, coconut flakes, cherikoff, and peanut candy. It is also known for its various Portuguese restaurants, including 'O Santos', which has been in business since 1989. We can enjoy our own lunch here. Then, we will stop by **The Venetian Macao**. And we can enjoy the rest of day on our own.

Day 13**Nov 22	Macau – Zhongshan	(B, D)
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This morning, we will enjoy some free time before transfer to Honolulu's Sister City – **Zhongshan**, the birthplace of Dr. Sun Yat-sen (also known as Dr. Sun Zhongshan). Dr. Sun Yat-sen was the first president and founding father of the Republic of China. Upon arrival, we will check in our hotel.

*Hotel Accommodation: Hilton Zhongshan Downtown or Similar 5**

Day 14**Nov 23	Zhongshan	(B, L, D)
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After enjoying the hotel breakfast, please feel free to enjoy a relaxing morning. After lunch, we will attend **the Chrysanthemum Exhibition** in Xiaolan Town where local folks have kept their practice of flower cultivation for several hundred years. There are over 3,000 different varieties and colors of chrysanthemum flowers. The chrysanthemum is a traditional subject in Chinese artwork and literature and is one of the "Four Gentlemen" of China (the others are the plum blossom, the orchid, and bamboo). The bloom and specified horticulture of chrysanthemum has given the town the famous name, "the City of Chrysanthemum". Tonight a special **Chrysanthemum Banquet** has been arranged for dinner.

Day 15**Nov 24	Zhongshan	(B, L)
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After breakfast, we will transfer to **Zhongshan Sunxi Walking Street** (Sunwen Road West or Sunwen Xilu) in Zhongshan Old Town, a pedestrian mall lined with dozens of restored buildings from the colonial period in treaty port style. Several of these buildings were built in the 1920s. After lunch, we will visit **Cuiheng Village**, known as the birthplace of the revolutionary leader, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Once in the village, we will visit the **Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) Residence Memorial Museum**, a symbolic building in Zhongshan with its majestic appearance and the rich Chinese national color. The Memorial Museum is also an important place for large-scale meetings and performances. After that, we will visit **Yakou Rice field**. Tonight, we will return to Zhongshan and enjoy the rest of day on our own.

Day 16**Nov 25	Zhongshan	(B)
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After enjoying the hotel breakfast, we will have a free day to explore the city on our own. You can visit old friends or explore the charming city on your own.

Day 17 **Nov 26	Zhongshan – Hong Kong → Honolulu	(B)
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Today, we will take a ferry to the Hong Kong International Airport for our return flight home, taking with us lasting memories of this wonderful tour to China.

We wish you a safe journey and many wonderful memories to share with family and friends! ☺

B: Breakfast | L: Lunch | D: Dinner



Remarks:

- ✦ Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and include all airline taxes and fees
- ✦ Business class is available, please call your agent for the price
- ✦ Refer to "General Condition of Air & Sea"
- ✦ We reserve the right to modify the itinerary to ensure smooth operation
- ✦ Tour price is subject to change according to any airfare increase, increase in government taxes, additional fuel charges, and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency
- ✦ Tour price includes fuel surcharge & government taxes and fees. The tour price shown is current at the time of listing and pricing on Mar 1, 2024
- ✦ Escorted tour with a minimum of 20 passengers
- ✦ Gratuity for Tour Guides & Drivers is included
- ✦ It is mandatory to inform Air and Sea Travel of any existing conditions that may require medical attention or accommodations during the trip. You need to provide this information in writing in the Tour Supplemental Information section of the application. If you do not have a travel companion who can help you with your special needs, you need to talk to your agent to determine if this is an appropriate tour for you. Some tours may be too strenuous depending on your condition. Air and Sea Travel reserves the right to reject or cancel your booking. You are responsible for any cancellation penalty that this may incur.
- ✦ All travelers, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are welcome to travel with us and will no longer be required to provide proof of pre-departure testing, except for specific countries where COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or additional documentation is required by law. Please visit or revisit the government site to verify the travel requirements. Fully vaccinated is recommended. Vaccines combined with multi-layered preventative health and safety measures will help us provide a safe and healthy vacation environment.
- ✦ As government regulations evolve, our health and safety protocols will evolve as needed to ensure compliance. This may mean different protocols from state to state and city to city based on local requirements.

Payment Policy:

CHECK OR CASH PAYMENT ONLY. A deposit of \$ 350 per person is required at the time of application. The balance of payment is due on **Aug 1, 2024**. In case balance of payment is not made within the required time period, Air and Sea Travel Center reserves the right to cancel reservations and charge a cancellation fee.

Cancellation Policy:

Written notice is required for any cancellation. After **Aug 1, 2024**, the cancellation fee will be as follow:

**** Aug 2 – Aug 29, 2024, 50%** of total price plus any other service fee caused by the cancellation;

**** From Aug 30, 2024 to the departure** or withdrawing during the tour shall be regarded as willingly giving up all rights concerned, **100%** of total price, and request for other services as a substitute shall not be accepted.

****We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance when you make a reservation****