

Discovering beautiful Yilan

China Airlines takes you to nature, hot springs and delicacies of Taiwan's Yilan

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According to Taiwan's Tourism Bureau, over 9,910,000 people visited Taiwan in 2014. However, there is a place in northeastern Taiwan called Yilan County, where only about 3 percent of tourists visit. Yilan is a popular weekend destination for urban Taipei residents, to escape from the hustle and bustle of busy city life and enjoy the well-preserved nature, hot springs and Yilan delicacies.

Today, Yilan can be reached in less than an hour from Taipei, using the 12.9-kilometer Hsueh Shan Tunnel. Yilan faces the Pacific Ocean to the east and is surrounded by the Hsueh Shan Range and Central mountains on three sides.

The rivers flow out of the mountains, nurturing Yilan and the Lanyang Plain before flowing into the ocean. As one of the wettest places in Taiwan, Yilan is surrounded by lush green mountains.

Places of interest

Opened in 2010, the four-story Lanyang Museum is a great place to learn about Yilan. The angular modern design of the impressive museum, finished in blue-gray, earned designer Yao Ren-xi, the "2010 Far Eastern Outstanding Architectural Design Award."

According to the museum's Kuei-E Cheng, the exterior design was inspired by the cuestas, or the layered rock formations, seen in the region, while the walls were designed to represent Lanyang's colorful rice fields. Cheng says, "The museum introduces the people, culture, landscape and natural history of the area."

The apex of the Museum points toward Turtle (Guishan) Island to the east, which is about

10 kilometers away. It seems that Turtle Island has a special place in Yilan people's hearts, perhaps occupying a space similar to the one Mt. Fuji does for the Japanese.

Based on legends, Turtle Island, which is about 3 sq. kilometers, is considered to be a guardian god and a spiritual landmark of Yilan. From April to October, dolphin and whale watching boats leave from Wushih Harbor, taking passengers around the island. Visitors can see how the extremely high temperatures of underwater hot springs change the color of the ocean and smell sulfur as the boat passes near the "Turtle's head."

Another popular destination in Yilan are leisure farms, where visitors get to experience a relaxing, but educational, taste of farm life. One of these, Toucheng Leisure Farm, sits on 120 hectares of land. Hunter Lin, who manages the leisure activity program, leads guests on hikes around different varieties of trees, including Yilan's specialty kumquat tree, rice fields, farm animals and vegetable fields where Lin offers a fresh vegetable to taste on the spot.

Situated on a hillside and surrounded by streams, Lin said, "The water is pure and tasty and everything is organic here." Also visitors can experience rice culture such as transplanting rice seedlings, threshing, and making traditional rice noodle snacks.

Japanese-style architecture can still be seen in Yilan today. The Memorial Hall of Founding of Yilan Administration is a wooden house built in traditional Japanese style in 1906. The house was the residence of Japanese government officials during Japanese colonial rule. Showcasing the city's his-



One of the various aircrafts by China Airlines CHINA AIRLINES

tory inside the house, visitors can relax while taking in the serene and tranquil atmosphere of the Japanese garden and hundred-year-old camphor tree. According to guide Li Ying Mao, "In 1900, the first governor, Kikujiro Saigo, built an embankment along the Yilan River to reduce damage from flooding."

After spending a day walking around, visitors can relax in the famous Jiaoxi hot springs. These flatland hot springs are rare in Taiwan and the water is clear, alkaline based, odorless, rich in minerals and has a soothing effect on the skin, earning them the nickname "beauty hot springs."

Taking a stroll through Jiaoxi, visitors will come across many footbaths where locals are soaking their feet. Also they may find fish spas, where feet are soaked in warm water to allow fish to nibble off dead skin. However, most of the hotels such as the Guan Xiang Century Hotel, offer hot spring baths in the privacy of the guest rooms, allowing visitors to fully relax.

Recently, Jiaoxi farmers have utilized spring water to produce vegetables such as tomatoes, Chinese water spinach, sponge cucumbers, water bamboo shoots and even rice. Hot-spring vegetables grow quickly and are sweet and delicious.

Delicious local delicacies

Tian Mama's Atayal Style Restaurant serves unique Atayal

cuisine, as Mama Mei-Yu Chen Wu, is a descendant of the Atayal tribe. Makauy, a type of mountain pepper used by native tribes, are used as spices for the dishes. Stir-fried Chinese water spinach and showaso (similar to garland chrysanthemum) tempura are highly recommended.

Another famous tourist destination is the Luodong Night Market, which is a popular night market in Taiwan. Feng-Ben Chen, the director of the Luodong Tourist Town said: "Luodong Night Market is always crowded. It's busy on weekdays, but it's really packed on weekends. You'll have a hard time moving through the crowds." With around 500 food outlets and so many people, it is easy to get confused over what to choose.

Some Yilan specialties visitors should try include scallion pancakes from Sanxing Township, *yang rou tang* (mutton soup), *gaozha* (fried tofu-like snack, with bite-sized chicken lard mixed with starch), *yashang* (smoked duck) and for dessert, *bao xin fen yuan* (red beans in tapioca, served with ice cream or tofu pudding) and cow tongue biscuits.

Accommodations

Yilan has many *minsu*, or bed and breakfasts, individually owned and having a limited number of guest rooms, offering a home-style experience. One of these *minsu*, Jane



Turtle Island has a special place in Yilan people's hearts. MING-JEN LIN



From left: Lanyang Museum; Yilan is surrounded by lush green mountains; A castle-like *minsu* by a rice field; The Memorial Hall of Founding of Yilan Administration is a wooden house built in traditional Japanese style. CHINA AIRLINES, RIN ONOZUKA



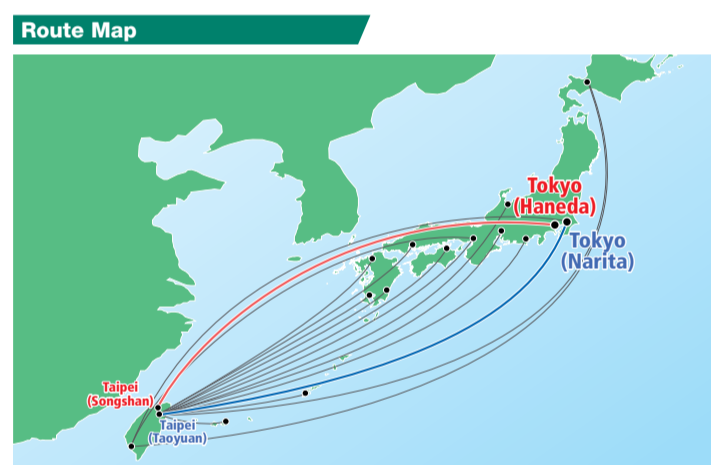
The Luodong Night Market is always busy. RIN ONOZUKA



Atayal cuisine at Tian Mama's Atayal Style Restaurant RIN ONOZUKA

Castle, is a fairytale-like magical castle in a beautiful rice field. All rooms have different themes and have been carefully decorated by the owner, Jane. Rooms are extremely clean and equipped with bidets, which are still rare

in Taiwan. The small size of *minsu* makes it easy to communicate with the owners and other guests. In a typical *minsu*, guests may be able to enjoy a conversation with friendly locals over breakfast.



Schedule (March - October, 2015)

Japan → Taiwan		Destination	Flight Number	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
Origin	Tokyo Haneda	Taipei Songshan	*1 CI9221 (JL97)	07:10	10:00	Daily
		Taipei Songshan	CI221	14:35	17:15	Daily
	Tokyo Narita	Taipei Songshan	*1 CI9223 (JL99)	18:20	21:00	Daily
		Taipei Taoyuan	CI107	09:25	12:10	Daily
		Taipei Taoyuan	CI101	14:30	17:15	Daily
		Taipei Taoyuan	CI017	18:30	20:55	Tue, Fri, Sun
		Taipei Taoyuan	CI109	21:20/21:40	24:05/24:25	Daily
Taiwan → Japan		Destination	Flight Number	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
Origin	Taipei Songshan	Tokyo Haneda	*1 CI9220 (JL96)	08:45	12:45	Daily
		Tokyo Haneda	CI220	09:00	12:55	Daily
	Taipei Taoyuan	Tokyo Haneda	*1 CI9222 (JL98)	14:20	18:20	Daily
		Tokyo Haneda	CI222	18:15	21:55	Daily
		Tokyo Narita	*2 CI108	04:05	08:25	Daily
		Tokyo Narita	CI100	08:55	13:15	Daily
Tokyo Narita	CI018	14:40	18:55	Daily		
Tokyo Narita	CI106	16:10	20:30	Daily		

*1 Flights using Japan Airlines' equipment and crew. Schedule is subject to change without notice.
*2 Seasonal flights. Date and time are subject to change without notice.
For more information, visit <http://www.china-airlines.com/>



Clockwise from above: Business class meal featuring Taiwan's delicacies by next generation Taiwanese star chefs; China Airlines introduces newly designed uniforms from August. Business-class seat pitch has been extended to 160 centimeters for greater comfort and shell seats recline up to 166 degrees. CHINA AIRLINES



China Airlines unveils new meals, uniforms

As the leading airline in Taiwan, China Airlines offers the maximum number of flights connecting between Japan and Taiwan, with up to 200 flights scheduled per week after July 1.

Especially from Tokyo, China Airlines offers the most convenient flight schedule for both busy business and leisure travelers. By boarding the 7:10 a.m. flight from Tokyo's Haneda Airport, passengers will arrive at Taipei's Songshan Airport at 10:00 a.m., while the 6:15 p.m. return flight arrives in Tokyo at 9:55 p.m. on the same day. Of course, a better plan is to spend several days in Taiwan, to explore new places such as Yilan.

China Airlines' A330-300 aircraft, which runs between Haneda and Songshan, are configured with 313 seats, offering two travel classes of 36 business-class seats and 277 economy-class seats. Despite being a short flight, business seat pitch has been extended to 160 centimeters for greater comfort and shell

seats recline up to 166 degrees. A partition, large headrest, lumbar support, adjustable reading light and 110V power outlet are offered for a satisfying flight. The cabins are finished in a combination of light purple and burgundy for a soothing atmosphere.

The multi-position headrest in economy allows for quality head and neck support together with the lumbar support to provide a comfortable flight. Slippers are also provided for all economy seats. On flights connecting large cities and Taipei, the audio and video on-demand, in-flight entertainment system can be enjoyed in all travel classes. Beverages and warm meals, as well as warm bread, are served on all flights, excluding some Okinawa flights.

On some flights leaving from Taipei, business passengers can enjoy an authentic Japanese in-flight meal developed in collaboration with The Okura Prestige Taipei, a five-star hotel.

For both business and economy-class meals, China Airlines has collaborated with four next generation Taiwanese star chefs to offer delicacies of northern, eastern, central and southern Taiwan, creating dishes using Taiwanese produce.

China Airlines has also unveiled a newly designed uniform, which will be worn by crew and ground staff from August. Academy Award-nominated designer and eleven-time Golden Horse Award-winner William Chang designed the new uniform, blending traditional China dress with contemporary style. Renowned stylist Roger Cheng created new make-up and hairstyle guidelines to match the new outfit. This is part of the "Next Gen" rebranding project, led by designer Ray Chen.

China Airlines' Next Gen B777-300ER's premium business class cabin design won the 2015 Red Dot Design Award, and the premium business class seat won the "Best of the Best" award.

You can make it with China Airlines, a wing of Taiwan.

www.china-airlines.co.jp