

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting "Item for Consideration"

CONSENT AGENDA • Date:

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

Category:

_____ Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	_____ Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
_____ Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<u>X</u> Student Services	_____ Board Policy
_____ Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	_____ Community Relations	_____ Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<u>X</u>
Discussion	_____
Report	_____

NOTE: This trip was approved by the Board of School Trustees on May 11, 2026. Since that approval, My Tawain Tour informed us they could not handle the insurance for the trip due to regulatory requirements. Therefore, we would like to use Sino Language & Beyond as our comprehensive travel provider. Details are attached.

Group: Priority is given to students in the Mandarin program, including those from both middle schools and the high school

Proposed activities include (but are not limited to):

- Traditional Cooking Class: Learn to prepare authentic Taiwanese dishes, focusing on local ingredients and culinary vocabulary.
- National Palace Museum: Research Chinese history through one of the largest collections of ancient Chinese imperial artifacts.
- Night Market Language Challenge: Navigate local night markets to practice functional Mandarin in real-world scenarios.
- Hiking Excursions: Explore the natural beauty of Taiwan's landscape through guided hikes in regional parks.

Administrator approving: Dr. Shawn Wooden

Transportation	Our group will fly out of Indianapolis and arrive at Taoyuan International Airport in Taiwan. Sino Language & Beyond , based in California, will handle our flights, payments, and insurance. Their local partner, Topology Travel , will handle in country transportation, accommodations, and meals in Taiwan.
Parent permission obtained	Parent permission will be obtained via the registration and payment process. All parents will be required to complete and sign the ZCS school Board's Off-Campus Programs and Trips Informtion Form
Cost to students/families	Approximately \$4250 (when 20 students sign up)

	The total fees charged will include group airfare, private in-country transportation, hotel, meals (9 breakfast, 9 lunch, 6 dinner), admission ticket and insurance. Additional costs will include the passport fees, personal spending money. This cost is subject to change based on fluctuating flight prices and the final number of participants.
About supervision	The trip will be led by Mandarin teacher Chen-Lien Hsu. A second staff member will be added based on final enrollment to maintain our goal of a 10:1 student-to-chaperone ratio. All non-ZCS staff chaperones must pass a background check prior to the trip.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (If there is one)	Sino Language & Beyond provide mandatory insurance for all participants, covering cancellation, delay and interruption; medical expenses and medical evacuation. See attached documents for details Refund Procedure: a. Within 48-hour grace period after registration: No penalty - You can cancel without any charges. b. Starting on the 3rd calendar day after registration: \$250 is non-refundable. c. 76 or more days prior to departure: \$495 deposit plus partial vendor commitments. d. 46-75 days prior to departure: 60% of the trip fare. e. 20-45 days prior to departure: 80% of the trip fare. f. Less than 20 days prior to departure: 100% of the trip fare, meaning no refund will be issued.
Any Additional information	Students are eligible for a 75% refund on non-refundable payments if they include 'Cancel For Any Reason' (CFAR) coverage in their insurance policy. The reimbursement percentage decreases as the departure date approaches.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

This trip to Taiwan offers an immersive environment where students can learn and grow outside the classroom. As a hub of world technology, Taiwan provides a unique look at global innovation and history. Through school visits and local interaction, students will build real-world connections and gain a broader international perspective.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

The main drawbacks are the cost and the fact that students might miss two days of school.

Financial Implications, if any:

The district needs to cover for the cost of substitute coverage for maximum two days.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.



SINO LANGUAGE & BEYOND

Presents

The 2027 Educational Tour to Taiwan

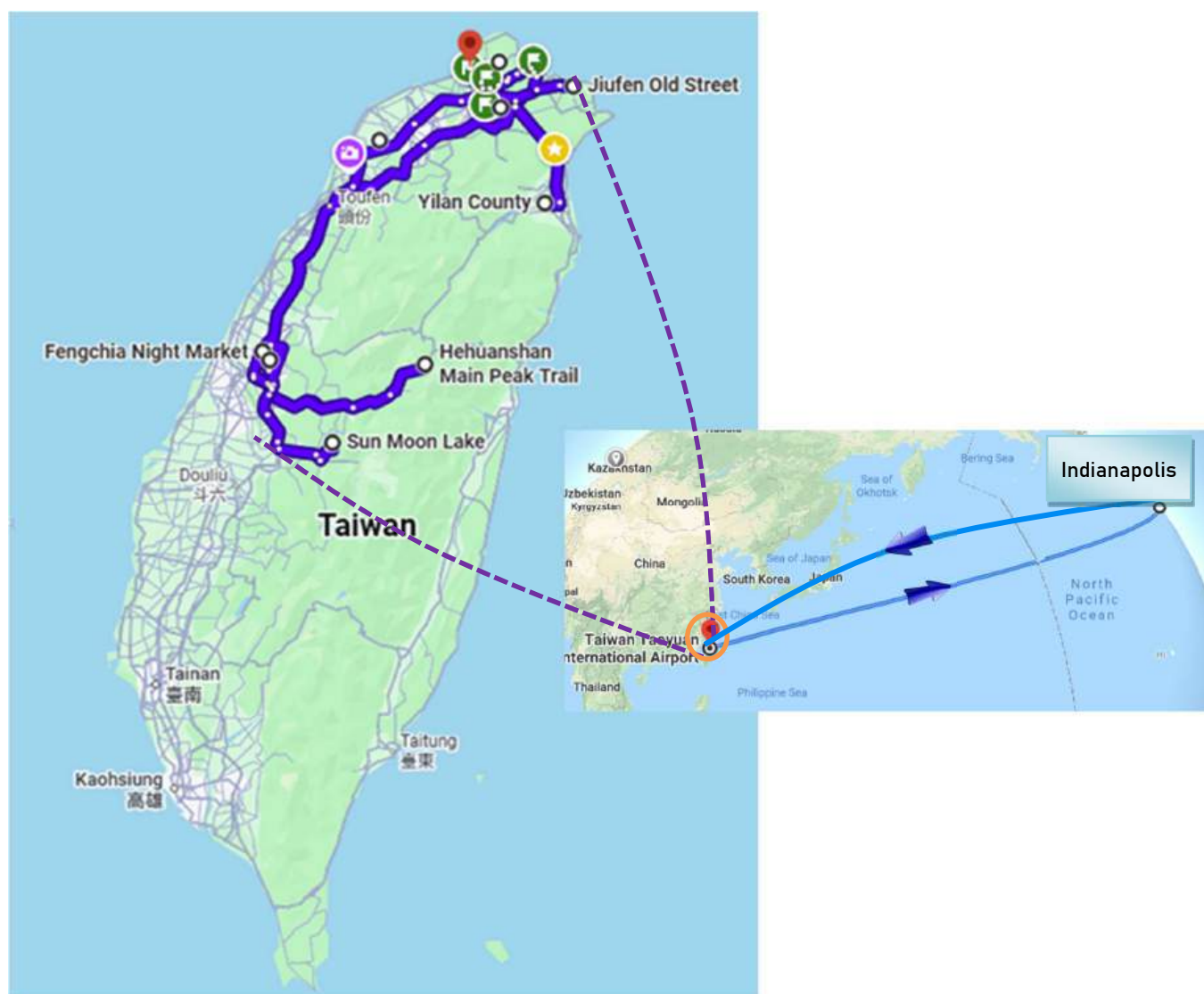
**For
Zionsville Community Schools**

March 24 – April 04, 2027 (12 days)

TAIWAN is known for its BUSTLING NIGHT MARKETS, DEEP INDIGENOUS HERITAGE, ROBUST ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY and BEAUTIFUL NATURE WITH LAKES AND MOUNTAINS.

You could spend months exploring Taiwan's Buddhist temples, villages, cities, and mountains and still barely scratch the surface of all the island has to offer. Here Confucius meets C-pop in a cultural mash-up of a place where traditional festivals are as important as hip-hop and chip makings.

On your visit to Taiwan, students will be able to explore the many cultural faces of this fascinating place, as well as the astounding natural treasures of the island historically known in the West as Ilha Formosa (beautiful island).



Itinerary

Week 1 Date	City	Itinerary	Lodging
Day 1 & 2 3/24 -3/25 (Wed-Thu)	Indianapolis to Taiwan	Depart from the Indianapolis Int'l Airport (IND) to Taiwan Taoyuan Int'l Airport (TPE) in later afternoon. Fly for less than 22 hours including one layover. You will cross the Int'l Date Line that advances 12 hours ahead during daylight saving time (mid-March to early November)	Flight
Day 3 - 11 3/26 – 4/03 (Fri - Sat)	Across Taiwan	Arrive in Taiwan's exciting capital city in the morning and begin your exploration. From today until Day 11, 4/03 Sat, follow the 9 day in-country itinerary by our Taiwan tour partner, Topology Travel.	Local hotels

Day 11 & 12 4/03 -4/04 (Sat-Sun)	Taipei to Indianapolis	After exploring the Danshui Old Street and tasting local eats, transfer to the Taoyuan Int'l Airport to catch your flight back to the U.S at around 11:30pm (Taiwan time). It's time to say goodbye to Taiwan. With only one layover and less than 18 hours, your flights will bring you home early Sunday morning with a whole new load of experience!	Flight
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Proposed Flights

3/24 Wed	Southwest WN2114	Indianapolis IND – Phoenix PHX	7:35pm - 8:30pm
3/24 Wed	China Airline CI35	Phoenix PHX – Taipei TPE	11:10pm - 5:30am(+2)
	Layover in Phoenix: 2hr 40min		
	Flight duration: 21hr 55m		
4/03 Sat	China Airline CI22	Taipei TPE – Seattle SEA	11:30pm - 7:15pm
4/03 Sat	Alaska AS1701	Seattle SEA – Indianapolis IND	10:00pm - 5:10am(+1)
	Layover in Seattle: 2hr 45min		
	Flight duration: 17hr 40m		

Please note

1) **Flight Itinerary**

This is the best flight itinerary currently available, offering the shortest overall travel time, only one connection, a reasonable layover, and a competitive fare. Delaying your trip registration may result in this itinerary becoming unavailable or airfare increasing.

2) **Flight Schedule Changes**

Flight schedules are subject to change by the airline due to operational requirements, unforeseen circumstances, or weather conditions.

3) **Airport Taxes & Fees**

Airport taxes and fees are included in the quoted price but are subject to change. We reserve the right to collect any additional charges if the increase exceeds 10% of the current taxes and fees included.

Lowest Price Available

Group size	20-29 travelers and 2 chaperones	30-35 travelers and 3 chaperones	Complete registration by Monday
Trip Price (per traveler)	\$4,250	\$4,110	8/31
	\$4,320	\$4,180	9/14
	\$4,390	\$4,250	9/28
Parents Insurance Add-on (Single room request will be charged separately)			
	\$220		

Includes:

- ✓ International and domestic roundtrip economic airtickets between Indianapolis (IND) and Taipei (TPE)
- ✓ Airport taxes & fees
- ✓ All accommodations and activities described in **the 9 day in-country itinerary** by our Taiwan tour partner - Topology Travel
- ✓ Comprehensive Travel Insurance that protects 100% Trip Cancellation, \$100,000 health and travel insurance, and more (Refer to Appendix 1 for details)
- ✓ Online registration setup
- ✓ Payment collection, tracking and reporting
- ✓ Standard double room for students and parents (unless request for single room)
- ✓ Single room for chaperones

Not Includes:

- ✓ Personal expenses such as baggage charges, seat selection on flights, extra meals and beverages, laundry, telephone, and expenses not specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Optional Cancel-for-Any-Reason benefits (Refer to Appendix 1 for details)
- ✓ Overtime charges in Taiwan beyond 10 hours per day

Payment Schedule, Methods & Travel document

Trip signup & Deposit	\$495	Mon, 08/31/2026	A digital copy of passport, whether valid or expired, is required. If you have never obtained one, please sign up using your digital copy of birth certificate, and initiate the passport application process immediately.
Installment payments (x3)	1/3 of the remaining balance or \$1,252 each time following the given schedule	Mon, 9/14/2026 Mon, 11/09/2026 Mon, 01/11/2027 *	* A digital copy of valid passport is required with the final balance in order for us to proceed with preparation for your trip.

Note: The quoted price reflects a cash discount rate. Acceptable payment methods include

- PayPal
- Venmo
- Zelle
- Direct bank deposit (check or cash)
- E-check (ACH)

Arrangements for credit/debit card payments may be made through PayPal or Venmo.

Our Services

We provide complete support before, during and after the trip

1. Set up online trip registration for the group leader who can pass the link to the students and families.
2. Secure your flights while ensuring you're getting the best combo in terms of flight fare, number of stops, layover time, total flight duration.
3. Secure your comprehensive travel and health insurance abroad.
4. Arrange your group as a private party, eliminating waiting and shared transportation with other groups.
5. Our trips are fully risk-assessed
6. Service guarantee

Why Travel with SLB and its tour partner?

Exceptional experience -- Our tour is designed to help you and your students be in the moment and experience everything Taiwan has to offer.

Best Price Guaranteed

- **Over \$1,000 less expensive** than other educational tour providers in the U.S. while maintaining proven high quality and offering additional services
- **Step-down price** to benefits students as more joins

Beyond Tourism

All our in-depth cultural activities and interactive programs are life-changing for both you and the locals.

- Integrating authentic learning experience into travel
- **Visit local markets and tribes** and participate in personal interaction, language, cultural activities
- **Fun task-based DIY activities, such as cooking, indigo dyeing and tea-picking**, designed for students to use Mandarin in the real world and have tons of fun.

No Tourist Shops Policy

- **Free-style exploration** in local markets and old streets for culture immersion, language practice, local food tasting, and fun
- Our goal is to make your trip full of quality learnings and good memories and no waste of time

Stay connected

Multiple ways to help you make seamless communication

- Your travel specialist is available 24/7
- Private social media group for the chaperones, group manager in both US and Taiwan, and the local guides in advance for seamless communication
- Private social media group for all travelers on the trip and families at home

Cancellation & Remarks

1. The division of responsibilities: Sino Language & Beyond (SLB) is responsible for securing international flights, insurance, and required visas if necessary. The in-country tour and scheduling are fully managed and overseen by the operator, Topology Travel. The following clauses apply solely to the portions that are under SLB's control.
2. Flight Itinerary: The flight information provided in this itinerary is for illustrative purposes and is subject to change. Actual flight information will be confirmed upon booking after traveler names are available.
3. Airport Taxes & Surcharges: Your trip cost already covers roundtrip flights and airport taxes and fees, but please note that the airline may adjust them. Rest assured, you won't be impacted if the increase stays below 10% of the current taxes and fees included.
4. Hotel Reservations: No hotel rooms have been reserved. Our tour partner will proceed with booking once your trip registration is complete.
5. Pricing and Occupancy:
 - a. The trip cost is per person and based on double occupancy.
 - b. Triple occupants pay the same rate as double occupants, subject to hotel availability.
 - c. Single occupants will incur a single room supplement fee of \$478. If any members of your group prefer a single room, please inform us at least three months in advance.
6. Uneven number of participants: In cases where the number of participants is uneven, resulting in a naturally occurring single room, a single supplement is required. Alternatively, you can choose to have a triple room if available, or pool resources for a single room that can be rotated among different group members.
7. Group Size: A minimum group size of 20 students is required to qualify for the quoted price. Less than 20 participants will result in a cost increase.
8. Tour price & Payment Methods: The quoted price is established with a cash discount rate. To be eligible for this rate, all payments must be made via online payment channels, including options such as Zelle, PayPal, Venmo, direct bank deposit or e-check. Arrangements for credit/debit card payments may be made through PayPal or Venmo.
9. Trip Itinerary Adjustments:
 - a. Please note that due to traffic and adverse weather conditions, the scheduled itinerary, which is packed with activities, may not always be achievable in a single day. Hence, one activity may be skipped when the day's schedule reaches 10 hours.
 - b. If your group decides to extend sightseeing over 10 hours, an overtime fee of NTD1,500 (about US\$50) per hour, per guide and driver, will be required, shared by the entire group.
10. Flight and Deviation:
 - a. Any deviation from the group flight, such as flight upgrades and flight extensions, will disqualify you from the group rate.
 - b. Individual requests for any flight deviation will be quoted individually and will incur an additional \$50 per booking.
 - c. Your airfare difference includes the following components: the difference between the individual fare rate and the group fare rate, the price variation based on your selected date, and an individual booking fee of \$50.
 - d. These requests should be submitted within one month of your trip registration, preferably at the time of trip registration.
 - e. Once your flight ticket is purchased, changes may not be permitted or could result in a

change fee of \$200 or more, as determined by the airline. We recommend verifying this information with us.

f. Once your airline ticket has been purchased, cancellation of the trip may result in no refund or a partial refund, depending on the airline's fare rules and refund policy.

11. Late Fee: Payments received 3 days overdue will incur a \$25 late fee for each payment. Any installment payment not received by 3 days after the due date will be subject to cancellation, and your deposit will be forfeited.
12. Cancellation Procedure: All cancellation requests must be submitted via email to info@sinolanguage.org with "Cancellation" in the subject line. Please include your name(s), school name, trip departure date, and a brief explanation for the cancellation.
13. Cancellation Policy: The services and value we provide begin long before your date of departure, and there are significant unrecoverable costs as your departure date approaches. Here's a breakdown of the applicable penalties based on the number of days before the departure date:
 - a. Within 48-hour grace period after registration: No penalty - You can cancel without any charges.
 - b. Starting on the 3rd calendar day after registration: \$250 is non-refundable.
 - c. 76 or more days prior to departure: \$495 deposit plus partial vendor commitments.
 - d. 46-75 days prior to departure: 60% of the trip fare.
 - e. 20-45 days prior to departure: 80% of the trip fare.
 - f. Less than 20 days prior to departure: 100% of the trip fare, meaning no refund will be issued.
14. Cancellation and Changes Policy:
 - a. If your cancellation impacts the entire group's price rate or your roommate's arrangements, such as disqualifying the group from obtaining a group rate for air ticket purchases or necessitating a single supplement payment by your roommate, we will deduct this amount from your refund, in addition to the cancellation penalty. If you haven't completed the full payment for your tour, you are responsible for remitting the difference to cover the price adjustment resulting from your cancellation.
 - b. Please be aware that any portion of your tour package that is voluntarily skipped by a traveler is non-refundable and non-transferable.
15. Modifying Your Trip: The same cancellation policy is applicable for the following scenarios if our office has already processed your deposit:
 - a. Changing to a different departure date
 - b. Opting for an alternate tour route
 - c. Postponing or rescheduling your trip
 - d. Substituting a participant: Note: Substitutions are not allowed. If a member of your group cancels, they cannot simply have someone else take their place without incurring a cancellation penalty. For more details, please refer to the cancellation policy outlined above.
16. Travel Documents:
 - a. To participate in the trip, it is essential that each traveler must possess a passport that is valid for at least three (3) months beyond the trip's end date. That is, your passport doesn't expire until 7/04/2027. Travelers whose passports do not meet this requirement are responsible for renewing their passports as early as completing their trip registration.
 - b. If any traveler's passport has undergone amendments since its submission to SLB (e.g., name changes, etc.), they must provide a copy of the amendment page reflecting the updated information.
 - c. Resident Aliens must carry both a passport and a Resident Alien Card (Green card) for re-entry into the U.S.

d. Most nationalities, including U.S. citizens, enjoy visa-free entry to Taiwan. If you hold a passport from a country other than the U.S., please contact us for further details.

17. Seating Assignment on Flights:

a. After the COVID pandemic, many airlines have discontinued complimentary advanced seat selection for economy class ticket holders. As a result, you can only choose your seat for free once online check-in becomes available.

b. Parents do have the option to select seats in advance for their child for an additional fee. Please be aware that, as a result of your seating preferences, your child may be seated separately from the rest of the group.

18. Dietary Requests on Flights: For seating preferences, dietary requests, or medical conditions on flights, kindly contact the airline upon receiving your air ticket confirmation, which you should expect to receive from SLB approximately 3 months prior to departure.

Appendix 1 - Insurance



OUR INSURANCE PARTNER: SEVEN CORNERS TRAVEL INSURANCE



SLB offers our student travelers a TRIP PROTECTION TRAVEL INSURANCE that provides coverage for non-refundable costs due to cancellation, delay, and interruption; baggage delay/loss; medical expenses and medical evacuation.

Covid-19 has transformed the world of travel. For travelers who are about to hit the road, these things below are strongly suggested.

1. Be cautious about the health guidelines,
2. Travel within private smaller groups,
3. Purchase a good insurance

SLB travelers in 2023 and beyond will have new protection plan options designed to offer you enhanced refunds should your travel plans change.

- ✓ \$100,000 comprehensive health and travel insurance – Included in your trip
- ✓ Trip Protection Insurance – Included in your trip
- ✓ Cancel for Any Reason Benefits– Optional

Non-Refundable Provision: The premium for the optional insurance must be paid at the same time as the initial trip deposit. Once purchased, the insurance is non-refundable.

Trip Cancellation Coverage

This plan allows you to cancel for a Covered Reason and receive a full refund of your prepaid and nonrefundable trip expenses! We strongly suggest you have this plan in case you can't go on to your trip due to something unexpected. For parents who would like a complete peace of mind, you could upgrade to include the Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) benefit and receive up to 75% refund up to 2 days before departure. This plan must be paid at the same time as the initial trip deposit, with or without CFAR.

Covered Reasons (included)			
Trip Cancellation Triggers	Trip Interrupt Triggers	Trip Delay Triggers	Missed Connection Trigger
• Death • Sickness or Injury • Pregnancy Complications • Financial Insolvency or Default • Traffic Accident en Route to Departure • Common Carrier Mechanical Breakdown • Airport Shutdown by Local Authorities (other than war-related reasons) • Airport Shutdown due to Fire or Power Outage • Natural Disaster Evacuation at Departure City or Destination • Strike • Inclement Weather • Primary Residence or Destination Accommodations Uninhabitable • Hurricane Warning or Watch • Hijack/Quarantine • Subpoena/Court Order/Jury Duty/Witness • Military Duty for Natural Disaster • Military Leave Revoked or Reassigned • Host Unable to Provide Accommodations • Terrorist Incident • Passport, Visa, or Travel Document Theft • Felonious Assault • Travel Alert, Evacuation Order, or Travel Ban • Involuntary Employment Transfer • Terminated or Laid Off from Employment	• Death • Sickness or Injury • Pregnancy Complications • Financial Insolvency or Default • Traffic Accident en Route to Departure • Common Carrier Mechanical Breakdown • Airport Shutdown by Local Authorities • Airport Shutdown due to Fire or Power Outage • Natural Disaster or Hurricane Evacuation at Departure City or Destination • Strike • Inclement Weather • Destination Accommodations Uninhabitable • Hurricane Warning or Watch • Hijack/Quarantine* • Subpoena/Court Order/Jury Duty/Witness • Military Duty for Natural Disaster • Military Leave Revoked or Reassigned • Host Unable to Provide Accommodations • Terrorist Incident • Passport, Visa, or Travel Document Theft • Felonious Assault • Travel Alert, Evacuation Order, or Travel Ban • Involuntary Employment Transfer • Terminated or Laid Off by Employer • Unable to Continue Trip Due to Injury or Sickness	• Traffic Accident en Route to Departure • Common Carrier Delay • Passport/Travel Document Theft • Hijack/Quarantine* • Strike • Inclement Weather • Natural Disaster Evacuation at Departure or Destination	• Common Carrier Delay, Cancellation, or Mechanical Breakdown • Inclement Weather • Quarantine*, Hijacking, Strike, Natural Disaster, Terrorism, Civil Disorder, or Rior

Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) (\$210)

- Personal or family issues
 - Fear of traveling
 - Change of mind
- Any reason you wish

Maximum Benefit Amount

COVID-19 COVERAGE

COVID-19 Trip Cancellation and Interruption	Cancellation: Reimburses prepaid and nonrefundable trip payments if you must cancel your trip because you become sick with COVID-19 before you depart on your trip and your physician determines you can no longer take your trip. Interruption: Reimburses prepaid and nonrefundable trip payments and additional transportation costs if you must interrupt your trip if you become sick with COVID-19 during your trip and your physician determines you can no longer continue your trip.
COVID-19 Accident and Sickness Medical Coverage	Reimburses you for medical costs you incur if you unexpectedly contract Covid-19 during your trip.
COVID-19 Travel Delay Coverage	Reimburses meals, local transportation, and lodging (if not paid by a common carrier or other party) if you're delayed at least 6 consecutive hours because you are quarantined*
COVID-19 Extension of Coverage	Coverage is extended for the duration of COVID-19 quarantine and five additional days following the quarantine* if you have not arrived at your return destination.

INSURANCE BENEFITS

Trip Cancellation	100% of your nonrefundable Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	100% of your nonrefundable Trip Cost
Optional Cancel for Any Reason	75% of your nonrefundable Trip Cost
Optional Trip Interruption for Any Reason	75% of your nonrefundable Trip Cost
Trip Delay (6+ hours)	\$200 per day up to \$600
Missed Tour Connection (3+ hours)	\$250 per day up to \$500
Emergency Accident & Sickness Medical Expense	\$100,000
Emergency Dental	\$750
Medical Evacuation & Repatriation of Remains	\$250,000
Political or Security Evacuation	\$20,000
Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver	Available if you meet the requirements
Baggage & Personal Effects	\$250 per item up to \$500
Baggage Delay (6 hours)	\$100 per day up to \$500
Items Subject to Special Limitations	\$500

Taiwan: 9-Day Educational Tour

【In-Country DAY 1, 3/26 Fri】 Arrive in Taipei

Welcome to Taiwan — a beautiful island renowned for its breathtaking natural scenery and rich cultural charm. Upon arrival at Taoyuan International Airport, you will begin a relaxed introduction to Taipei, a vibrant city where tradition and modernity blend seamlessly together.

Your morning starts with an authentic Taiwanese breakfast experience, featuring local favorites such as warm soy milk, egg pancakes, and sesame flatbread with fried dough sticks — a perfect introduction to everyday Taiwanese life. Afterwards, head to Xiangshan for a light scenic walk and panoramic views of Taipei's skyline, including the iconic Taipei 101.

Next, take the Maokong Gondola to Maokong, a peaceful hillside area known for its tea culture and laid-back atmosphere, where you can enjoy a leisurely stroll and lunch surrounded by nature. In the afternoon, explore the nostalgic charm of Dihua Street, Taipei's historic district filled with traditional shops, local delicacies, and beautifully preserved old streets.

Finally, return to the hotel for check-in at 3:00 PM and enjoy some time to rest and recharge for the exciting journey ahead.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [Taisugar Hotel Taipei or same level](#)

Tel: +886 2 2388 5522

Address: **No. 39, Section 1, Zhonghua Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan**

MEALS: Local breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Eat as a local: Taiwanese breakfast



Breakfast in Taiwan is a huge part of local culture. Breakfast shops are commonplace, and the menus often include everything from the traditional staples to more Westernized options. Students and office workers can be seen in the morning dashing into the local store for a bite on-the-go, often chatting with the owner as the food is being prepared.



Elephant Mountain Hiking Trail

Elephant Mountain is located at Xinyi District. You can hike up Elephant Mountain it offers spectacular views of Taipei both at day and night, and it's a quick, 20-minute hike, easily accessible directly from the city.



Maokong Gondola: Glide Through Taipei in Cable Car

Maokong Gondola goes up and down and curves around the mountain sides. The total journey was about half an hour. From the top we got a spectacular view over Taipei.



Dihua Street

Walking into Dihua Street feels like stepping into a historical corridor. It is renowned for its well-preserved Baroque-style architecture. It features shops with herbal medicines, dried goods, and traditional groceries. Recently, cultural shops and restaurants have also set up here, turning it into a charming commercial area.

【In-Country DAY 2, 3/27 Sat】 Explore Taipei on the Taipei Metro

Today, we'll explore Taipei like a local via the Taipei Metro — a clean, convenient, and efficient public transportation system that connects many of the city's major attractions.

We will begin with a visit to the **Longshan Temple**, where you'll learn about Taiwan's temple culture.

Next, we will visit the **Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall**, a landmark known for its grand architecture and spacious plazas. It is also an important site for understanding Taiwan's modern history.

After that, we will enjoy lunch at **Din Tai Fung**.

We will then head to the **Taipei 101 Observatory**, once the tallest skyscraper in the world. From the top, you can enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the city and appreciate Taipei's unique urban landscape.

To end the day, we will explore the lively streets of **Ximending**, the heart of Taiwan's youth and subculture scene. Known for its fashion, anime shops, street food, and creative street art, Ximending is the perfect place to soak in the city's youthful spirit and modern culture.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [Taisugar Hotel Taipei or same level](#)

Tel: +886 2 2388 5522

Address: **No. 39, Section 1, Zhonghua Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch (Dinner will be on your own at Ximending.)



Longshan Temple: A Feast of Architecture & Folk Culture

This renowned historic temple is dedicated to Guanyin and other deities, featuring exquisite architecture. Visitors can observe daily local rituals, such as offering incense, tossing divination blocks, or drawing lots to communicate with the gods, and experience Taiwan's rich spiritual culture.



The Historical Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall

The architecture of the memorial hall and the changing of the guard ceremony are both impressive. You can also learn the history of Taiwan and of Chiang Kai-Shek's life at the museum or admire the beautiful Chinese-style garden outside.



Michelin-Starred Xiao Long Bao (Soup Dumplings) at Din Tai Fung

When in Taipei, eat as the Taipeiers eat. Xiao Long Bao is one of the must eat food. You can watch a team of a dozen chefs busy with meticulous dumpling assembly through windows separating the kitchen from the dining room.



The World's Tallest Green Building: Taipei 101

Taipei 101 is the iconic building of Taipei. The highlight is its observation deck where you'll see the damper: the key elements of earthquake resistance systems. And the view of city's skyline from the top is amazing



Ximending: Journey to the Center of Subculture in Taiwan

A favorite hangout spot for Taiwanese teens, Ximending is bursting with energy, creativity, and style. Students can enjoy street performances, trendy shops, and local snacks while immersing themselves in a vibrant subculture that reflects the modern face of Taiwan.

【In-Country DAY 3, 3/28 Sun】Cooking Class and The National Palace Museum

In the morning, we will join an immersive **cooking class**, where you will learn how to make two iconic Taiwanese dishes—xiao long bao (soup dumplings) and bubble tea. Under the guidance of professional chefs, you will prepare your own meal and then enjoy the lunch you have created, offering a truly authentic hands-on experience of Taiwanese cuisine and food culture.

In the afternoon, we will visit the **National Palace Museum**. The museum houses one of the world's largest and most important collections of Chinese art and artifacts, spanning thousands of years of history. Its extensive collection includes paintings, calligraphy, bronze ware, jade, ceramics, and many world-renowned national treasures. With the help of a guided tour, you will gain deeper insight into the artistic excellence and historical development of Chinese culture.

Afterwards, we will proceed to our next destination—**Yilan** (approximately a 1.5-hour drive).

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [The Moment Hotel or same level](#)

Tel: +886 3 950 6666

Address: No. 201, Section 2, Wubin Road, Wujie Township, Yilan County

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



CookInn Culinary Experience

Step into Taiwan's vibrant food culture with CookInn, where hands-on cooking classes transform iconic dishes like xiao long bao, beef noodles, and bubble milk tea into unforgettable memories.



National Palace Museum: Treasure Chest of Chinese Culture

One of top 5 most visited worldwide museum. The best place to see the essence of Chinese civilization. Housed in a traditional Chinese building, the huge museum has a rich and extensive collection of artworks from all time periods.

【In-Country DAY 4, 3/29 Mon】 Indigenous Tribal Village Experience

Today, we will visit Kbanun Village, an Atayal tribal village, where we will **learn about the traditional wisdom of Taiwan's Indigenous people in living harmoniously with nature**. The tribe will share their rich stories, and we will have the chance to enjoy their delicious tribal cuisine.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [The Moment Hotel or same level](#)

Tel: +886 3 950 6666

Address: No. 201, Section 2, Wubin Road, Wujie Township, Yilan County

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Arrive at Kbanun Indigenous Village and Meet the Local Residents

Upon arrival, we will be warmly welcomed by the Atayal people. To immerse ourselves in their culture, we will participate in a Welcome Ceremony, where we will dress like the Atayal people and get traditional Atayal tattoos.



Enjoy a Traditional Indigenous Lunch

In the tribe, the **yaya** (a respectful term for elder women in Atayal culture) are known for their amazing cooking skills. We will also get hands-on and make our own bamboo rice, a traditional meal cooked inside bamboo tubes.



Become a Hunter

Before entering the forest, we will participate in the traditional Gaga prayer ceremony. Then, we will learn about the ecological environment of the hunting grounds, explore animal tracks, and familiarize ourselves with local plants. Next comes the exciting part: we will practice archery.



Cooking eggs in a hot spring - Qingshui Geothermal Pools

At the Qingshui Geothermal Park you can experience cooking food in hot springs. For example: chicken eggs, corn, and sweet potatoes. And you can take a foot bath at another hot spring with lower temp to relax yourself.

【In-Country DAY 5, 3/30 Tue】Yilan

In the morning, we will visit the **Yilan Traditional Arts Center**. Here, you can enjoy traditional theatrical performances and handicraft exhibitions, and experience the rich cultural atmosphere of Taiwan's heritage arts.

We will also take part in a natural **indigo dyeing workshop**. Under the guidance of professional instructors, you will create your own indigo-dyed piece, learning about this traditional craft that uses natural plant-based dyes, and experiencing the beauty and creativity of local Taiwanese culture.

In the afternoon, we will visit a tea plantation for a **tea-picking experience**. Accompanied by local tea farmers, we will walk through the tea fields, learn about tea cultivation and harvesting, and try picking tea leaves ourselves, gaining a deeper understanding of Taiwan's tea culture and traditions.

Afterwards, we will proceed to Taichung, with a driving time of approximately 3 hours.

ACCOMMODATION: [La Vida Hotel or same level](#)

Tel: +886 4 2451 7722

Address: No. 275-2, Section 2, Xitun Road, Xitun District, Taichung City, Taiwan

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Yilan Park of National Center for Traditional Arts

Explore the park to delve into the history of Yilan's rich traditional culture. Immerse yourself in traditional experiences like a honeycomb toffee-making class and indigo dyeing. And, be sure not to miss captivating performances on the plaza stage.



Taiwan Blue - Traditional Indigo Dyeing

Design your own handkerchief using the natural indigo blue dye of a local plant. After folding, twirling, crumpling and tying the handkerchief with rubber bands and strings and then repeatedly, you will have the unique souvenir!



Tea-Picking and Tea-making Experience

Taiwan's tea is renowned internationally. To experience its origins firsthand, you will be at a tea plantation for tea leaf picking. Enjoy the scenic tea fields and the fresh aroma while picking tea. Learn about different tea types and production techniques through the tea-making process and enhancing your understanding of the tea culture.

【In-Country DAY 6, 3/31 Wed】 Hehuan Mountain

Today we will depart from Taichung and travel to **Hehuanshan**, with a driving time of approximately 2 hours. Along the way, we will pass through the Hehuanshan Highway, where you can enjoy breathtaking mountain scenery and cloud-filled landscapes, showcasing the unique natural beauty of Taiwan's Central Mountain Range.

Upon arrival, we will hike to **Hehuanshan Main Peak** (elevation 3,416 meters above sea level), one of the most accessible “100 Peaks” in Taiwan. It offers vast alpine grasslands and fresh mountain air, making it an ideal experience for high-mountain hiking and nature appreciation.

In the afternoon, we will return to Taichung, with a driving time of approximately 2 hours.

In the evening, we will visit **Fengjia Night Market** for free time and dinner. It is one of the most popular night markets in Taichung, well known for its wide variety of street food and innovative local snacks, offering a great opportunity to experience Taiwan’s vibrant night market culture.

ACCOMMODATION: [La Vida Hotel or same level](#)

Tel: +886 4 2451 7722

Address: No. 275-2, Section 2, Xitun Road, Xitun District, Taichung City, Taiwan

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch (Dinner will be on your own in Feng-Chia Night Market.)



Reach Hehuan Mt. & the Highest Highway in Taiwan

Mt. Hehuan rivals the island's other high peaks in scenery and atmosphere, yet it is easily reachable by car or on foot. Climbing up to Wuling by car, at 3,275 meters above the sea level, you can see the plentiful and spectacular views.



Hiking Above Cloud - Hehuan Mt. Hiking Trail

Mt. Hehuan is the watershed for several major rivers in Taiwan, situated between 2,300 and 3,400 meters above sea level. It's easy to hike and you will witness the cloud sea. The observation deck is so breathtaking, you'll fill up your memory card before you know it!



A Food Paradise: Feng-Chia Night Market

Feng Chia Night Market satisfies all visitors’ taste buds by its diverse delicacies including Tapioca Pearls, Cheese Potatoes, Hot Pot, and many more. Visitors can also shop from store to store to explore the latest fashion in Taichung.

【In-Country DAY 7, 4/01 Thu】 Sun Moon Lake

Today's journey takes us through the beauty and culture of Sun Moon Lake. We begin with a **Sun Moon Lake bike tour**, riding along the scenic lakeside path known for its peaceful atmosphere and breathtaking mountain-and-water views.

Next, we will enjoy a relaxing **Sun Moon Lake boat tour**, giving you a different perspective of the lake as you glide across its calm surface. This is the perfect way to appreciate the area's natural charm from the water.

To round out the day, we will visit the iconic **Wenwu Temple**, one of the most famous temples around the lake. Many students come here to pray for academic success, and you'll have the chance to experience this meaningful tradition and admire the temple's beautiful architecture overlooking the lake.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [Taisugar Hotel Taipei or same level](#)

Tel: +886 2 2388 5522

Address: **No. 39, Section 1, Zhonghua Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sun Moon Lake Bike Tour

The round-the-lake bike way has attracted cycling lovers from around the world. Nominated as one of the most breathtaking cycle paths by CNN, it offers the closest contact with the idyllic scenery along the lake shores.



Sun Moon Lake Boat Touring

To have a better look of the lake and its surrounding sightseeing spots, a boat tour is delightful and the quickest way to move from one place to another through Sun Moon Lake.



Ita Thao

A hungry stomach is a prerequisite for a gastronomic adventure in Ita Thao. It is the place to be for those who love food. You should try the foods here like wild boar sausage / skewers, roasted millet mochi, bamboo rice, etc.



HSR Experience

High-Speed Rail is one of the world's fastest at an average speed of about 300 km. It is one of the best ways to travel from the North to South parts of Taiwan. Experience taking the HSR, renowned for its speed, comfort, cleanliness, and spacious seating.



Karaoke Experience (90 minutes)

In Taiwan karaoke is a very popular form of entertainment and one of the most common ways for friends, classmates, and families to gather. Karaoke venues are typically operated with private rooms, providing a comfortable and exclusive space where guests can fully enjoy singing, chatting, and relaxing.

(For this activity, we will assist with the reservation only, and the guide will not accompany the group.)

【In-Country DAY 8, 4/02 Fri】 Jiufen and Shifen

In the morning, we will visit **Jiufen Old Street**, a nostalgic mountain town built along the hillside. It is famous for its charming old streets, winding alleys, traditional snacks, unique local shops, and stunning views of the mountains and ocean, making it one of the most iconic destinations for experiencing Taiwan's mountain town atmosphere.

Afterwards, we will visit the **Gold Museum** to learn about the historical gold mining industry in the Jinguashi area. Here, you will gain insight into Taiwan's mining heritage and the daily life of miners in earlier times, as well as the development of the region's industrial history.

Next, we'll head to **Shifen Old Street**, a nostalgic railway town where trains still run right alongside the shops and crowds. The charming retro atmosphere makes it a perfect place to explore and capture memorable photos.

We will end the day with a meaningful cultural experience—**releasing sky lanterns**. You'll write your wishes on the lantern, then watch it float into the sky, carrying your hopes and blessings upward with the evening breeze.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel: [Taisugar Hotel Taipei or same level](#)

Tel: +886 2 2388 5522

Address: **No. 39, Section 1, Zhonghua Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Feel the Breath of Ocean - Bitou Cape Trail

Besides comfortably strolling within Bitou Cape Park, visitors can also admire the rich ecology and geological scenery. There are two well-planned hiking paths and the Bitou Coastal Coral Rock Zone.



Jiufen & Its Nostalgic Old Street

Jiufen is the miner living area during the gold rush era, rich with authentic Taiwanese food, sloping steps, and traditional Chinese architecture. In the end of the old street, you can see the boundless sea and sky.



Shifen Old Street: Taiwan's Charming Railway Town

Shifen Old Street is a unique blend of railway heritage and cultural charm located in Taiwan's scenic Pingxi District. Famous for its historic railroad tracks running right through the bustling street, visitors can experience the nostalgic atmosphere of a traditional Taiwan railway town.



Releasing a Sky Lantern and Make a Wish

Releasing a sky lantern in Shifen is one of Taiwan's most enchanting cultural traditions. Located in the scenic Pingxi District, Shifen is famous for having the opportunity to write your wishes or prayers on colorful lanterns before sending them into the sky. This unique activity attracts travelers seeking a memorable and photogenic experience during their Taipei trip or Taiwan North Coast tour.

【In-Country DAY 9, 4/03 Sat】 Yangmingshan and Departure

On the final day of your journey in Taiwan before departure, we will take you to one of Taipei's most iconic highlights — Qixing Mountain, the highest peak in the Taipei area.

We will begin at Xiaoyoukeng Recreation Area, a spectacular volcanic landscape featuring dramatic geothermal scenery. Sulfur gases and white steam continuously rise from cracks in the ground, creating a rare and impressive natural wonder unlike anything else in Taipei.

Next, we will continue the hike along the Qixing Mountain Trail. The trail is moderate and takes approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes to complete. Upon reaching the summit, you will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views over Taipei City and the northern coastline, a truly unforgettable experience.

In the afternoon, we will head to the Tamsui Old Street, where you can enjoy a relaxed riverside atmosphere. Stroll through nostalgic streets, sample a variety of local street foods, and browse unique souvenir shops — a perfect and leisurely way to conclude your journey.

Finally, we will transfer you to the airport for your departure, marking the end of your unforgettable trip to Taiwan.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch



Volcanic Fumaroles & Sulfurous Rocks - Small Oil Pit

Like Yellowstone National Park, it's definitely a sight to behold seeing plumes of steam and volcanic gases venting out of the side of a hill. You can hike to the highest point in Taipei. Absolutely spectacular!



A hike to Taipei City's highest mountain-Mt. Qixing Trail

It is the highest mountain in the Taipei area and offers amazing city and coastal views of Taipei and northern Taiwan. The trail is not difficult, the total distance approximately 5.7 km, average grade of 11 degrees, the entire journey takes about 3 hours and 15 minutes.



Danshui Old Street and Local Delicious Food

Lots of things to see, experience, eat, feel. The wonderful, open sidewalks make for easy walking, and the street has fantastic souvenir shops with terrific and affordable finds. It is a pleasure to be in a less crowded market area.

