

Discover TAIWAN!

Intriguing Mountains, People & Cities!

April 13-25, 2018



We invite you to join us in Taiwan to explore the natural wealth and cultural heritage of this island nation, with leadership by Betchart's popular naturalist, Dr. Chris Carpenter!

The trip is a wonderful adventure! It provides a rich natural history and cultural experience on a dramatic island, with spectacular peaks, deep canyons, beautiful beaches, and a unique political/cultural background.

We will explore Taipei, a cosmopolitan city with 8,000 years of history, a monument to Chiang Kai-Shek, and vibrant traditional shopping districts.

We will travel inland to Yangmingshan National Park, with stunning canyons and peaks, as well as explore the dramatic East Coast National Scenic Area. Here we will visit villages of the Amis aboriginal tribe and learn about their fascinating matrilineal society.

At Taiwan's southern-most point, we will see the "Light of East Asia" and Taiwan's southernmost national park.

We will also visit a spectacular cultural, educational, and religious Buddhist center recently opened for visitors, as well as the National Museum of Taiwan History situated on an historic site for trade and immigration.

We will enjoy a boat trip on Sun-Moon Lake for beautiful scenery and traditional culture, songs, and dancing of the Thao tribe and visit the Formosa Aboriginal Village park for more cultural festivities.

Our journey concludes in Taipei where we soar to the top of of the Taipei 101 building, once the tallest in the world!

With our local guide and Chris Carpenter's superb leadership, we will have a delightful adventure!

We hope you will join us!

Best Regards,

Margaret
Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS & the Planetary Society



LEADERSHIP

Leading the expedition will be popular Betchart naturalist **Dr. Chris Carpenter**.

Chris has led China Expeditions for Betchart Expeditions since 1994 as well as trips to Tibet, Xinjiang & Hunza, Indonesia, and Vietnam. He has a Ph.D. from UC Davis in California.

Chris has a strong background in the cultural heritage of China, and speaks Chinese as well as several other Asian languages. Chris lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand with his Chinese wife, and also leads study abroad research trips for the Wildlands Studies Program at UC Monterey to India, Nepal, Thailand, and China.

Chris looks forward to exploring Taiwan with you.



ITINERARY

Days 1/2 Los Angeles to Taipei

Depart Los Angeles at noon on a non-stop flight to Taipei with Eva Air. Cross the international dateline en route. Arrive Taipei the evening of Day 2. Transfer to our hotel. *Taipei Grand Hotel (3 nights)*.

Day 3 Taipei

Today we will explore the vibrant city of Taipei, an extraordinary blend of rich cultural heritage and cosmopolitan life. We will explore 8,000 years of history housed in the National Palace Museum. Boasting the world's largest collection of Chinese art treasures, most of the museum's 620,000 pieces were part of the Chinese imperial collection brought from China to Taiwan during the Communist Revolution.

See the impressive monument to Chiang Kai-Shek at the Memorial Hall. Its elegant Ming-style arch is situated between the classic-style National Theater and the National Concert Hall. The Martyrs Shrine is also an excellent example of classical Ming dynasty architecture, dedicated to the fallen heroes of China's wars.

See the famous Lungshan Temple where Guanshiyin Buddha and other divine spirits are worshiped within its Taiwanese classic architecture. The temple walls are adorned with Chinese poems, verses and lyrics.

Explore the lively pedestrian zone of Ximending, known for cinema, art, cultural events, shopping, and music performances. Get a feel for Taipei City's past with a walk along Dihua Street. This old-town market has shops selling a variety of traditional goods such as Chinese medicines, spices and dried food, cloth, and other crafts. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Yangmingshan National Park & Guandu Nature Park

This morning we will depart for the diverse ecological area of Yangmingshan National Park, the only park in Taiwan with volcanic geography and hot springs as well as magnificent mountain scenery. Designed in traditional Chinese style, the natural beauty of this park is a combination of urban forest and Taipei garden.

After lunch visit Guandu Nature Park where the Keelung and Tamsui Rivers converge, creating freshwater and brackish ponds, rice paddies and mounds. We will look for migrating birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds in this important wintering and breeding ground managed by the Wild Bird Society of Taipei.

We will visit the Guandu Temple built in 1661 dedicated to Mazu, goddess of the sea, for spectacular views of the river and mangrove swamps.



This evening we will explore the bustling Shiling Night Market near Yangming Theater and Cicheng Temple. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Taipei – Yehliu GeoPark – Jiufen – Yilan

Today we explore the cape of Yehliu with its beautifully eroded honeycomb and mushroom rock formations running along a thin sliver of land jutting into the ocean. We will look for the Queen’s Head, eroded holes teeming with sea-life, ospreys and little egrets. We will see the elaborate 19th-century Baoan Temple, built using materials from an abandoned boat in the village.

Visit the villages of Jiufen, once the center of gold mining, where quaint old villages cling to the steep mountainsides and offer a fascinating glimpse into the past.

At Nanya, the entire coastline is a veritable sculpture garden that illustrates the artistry of weathering and wave action. *Jiao Shi Art Spa Hotel.* (B,L,D)

Day 6 National Center for Traditional Arts & Taroko Gorge

Today we will have a chance to stroll among artistic creations, listen to elegant music, and if schedule allows, enjoy opera performances at the new National Center for Traditional Arts facility beside Dong Mountain River in Yila. The center also provides a stage where other performing artists can show off their creative works. The emphasis is on the continuous innovation and renewal of traditional arts.



This afternoon we explore Taroko Gorge, famous for its spectacular mountains, marble canyons and cliffs stretching along the Liwu River. Lush waterfalls including Baiyang, Yindai, Changchun and Lushui flow through the park. See swallows nesting on the cliffs along the impressive Swallow Grotto (Yanzikou) and Tunnel of Nine Turns (Jiuqudong) canyons.

Day 7 National Center for Traditional Arts & Taitung

We will explore Taiwan’s lovely, unspoiled east coast, stretching 170 kilometers down the island from the mouth of the Hualien River to Xiaoyeliu (Little Yeliu) in the south, edging the Pacific Ocean on the east, and the Coastal Mountain Range to the west. The geology of this spectacular landscape is volcanic rock and shale. Weathering, deposition, and erosion have produced a wide range of landforms, including coastal terraces, pebble beaches, shoreline reefs, inshore islands, capes with sea-eroded platforms, trenches, and caves. It provides habitat for a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

We will see the villages of the Amis aboriginal tribe dotting the coastline. These unique people are the largest indigenous tribe in Taiwan. We will learn about their fascinating matrilineal society. Before the Amis settled here, prehistoric peoples came and went, leaving a rich store of artifacts and ancient sites that can still be seen today. It became the East Coast National Scenic Area in 1988. *Hoya Hot Springs Resort & Spa.* (B,L,D)

Day 8 Kenting –FoGuangShan

This morning we will continue our journey through Longpan Park, the great grassland beside the Jia-Oh highway. The area is on the tableland of coral reef limestone near the Pacific beaches. See the stunning rain eroded terrain, crumbled ridges, subterranean caves, and crimson soil on our way to the Eluanbi Park Light.

Standing sentry at the southernmost point known as “Taiwan’s Tail” is the 70 foot high



“Light of East Asia,” reputedly the brightest lighthouse in Asia. Here we see the island’s oldest and southernmost National Park, home to a wide range of interesting geological, botanical, and prehistoric sites. Plants include a rare coastal forest, primitive tropical monsoon forest, and coral reef that fears neither wind nor wave. At least 70 prehistoric sites have been discovered here.

We will follow the rugged coast to Maobitou on the west cape of southern Taiwan, named for the rock that looks like a crouching cat facing toward the sea. This coral coast is located on the demarcation point of the Taiwan Strait and Bashi Channel and faces windward to create scarps, reef columns, sea trenches, sea erosion caves and pot holes.

FoGuangShan Monastery Guest House. (B,L,D)

Day 9 FoGuangShan – Tainan

This morning we will visit the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum located on the left bank of the Gaoping river in Dashu. Home to one of the tooth relics of Gautama Buddha, the museum serves as a Mahayana Buddhist center. It opened in 2011 as a cultural, educational, and religious site for both local and foreign visitors. The architecture consists of eight Chinese pagodas symbolizing the Noble Eightfold Path, stupas that represent the Four Noble Truths, Welcoming Hall, Memorial Hall, and a golden statue of Buddha Amitaabha (almost 400 feet tall).

This afternoon we will learn about Taiwan’s unique origins from prehistory to the present day at the National Museum of Taiwan History. The museum site sits on the remains of Taijiang Inland Sea, an important trade and immigration site during the early years of settlement. *The Place Tainan* (2 nights) (B,L,D)



Day 10 Tainan

Today we will learn about the transformation of the island through Dutch occupation, Chinese Dynasties and Japanese colonization. Tainan City was the administrative and political center of the Dutch regime. The trade hub is characterized by the red bricks of

Anping Fort, the twisted roots and branches of Anping Tree house and Chihkan Tower. Enjoy a powerful performance of traditional drum play at Ten Drum Cultural Creative Park. (B,L,D)

Day 11 Tainan – Sun Moon Lake

Today we travel inland to explore Sun Moon Lake. Located at almost 2,450 feet above sea level, it is the largest natural lake in Taiwan. The name is derived from the shape of the southern part of Lalu Island (new moon), and the northern part (sun). The lush natural forest surrounding the lake is ideal for bird watching. Enjoy a scenic boat ride on the lake. Learn about the Shao clan, the earliest to live in the region.

Visit beautiful Wen Wu Temple, originally Longfeng and Ihuatang temples now combined. Enjoy the traditional culture, songs, and dancing of the Thao tribe in Ita Thao known in





their language as Barawbaw. *Sun Moon Lake Fleur de Chine Hotel (1 night)* (B,L,D)

Day 12 Tainan – Sun Moon Lake

Enjoy breathtaking views from the Sun Moon Lake gondola as we explore the area this morning. Visit the Formosa Aboriginal Village Theme Park which has nine separate villages and a traditional European garden. In addition to the traditional architectural flourishes, we may see traditional dances, crafts, and other authentic demonstrations.

We return to Taipei this afternoon to visit the iconic Taipei 101. Classified as the world’s tallest building from 2004 – 2010, it rises up in the form of a Chinese Pagoda. It set a world precedent for sustainable skyscraper development as the largest and highest-use green building built.

Spend the evening immersed in the excitement of one of the cities oldest night markets. The glittering 600 meter Rao Ho Street is the epitome of traditional Taiwanese night markets packed with fun and interesting foods, snacks, quaint shops and stalls. *Taipei Grand Hotel (1 night).* (B,L,D)

Day 13 Taipei - Los Angeles

Group transfer to the airport for our flight to Los Angeles. Arrive the same day. (B)

RESERVATIONS #1497

Yes! I/we want to join **Discover Taiwan, April 13-25, 2018**, offered by **AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi, ACS, and The Planetary Society**. Please reserve ___ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____
 _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership: ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS ___ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single Twin Share: ___ with a friend or
 ___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please Mail To: Discover Taiwan 2018
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
 17050 Montebello Road
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RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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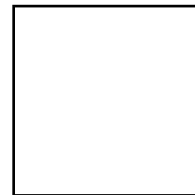


**AAAS Travels
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions
The Planetary Society**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



Discover TAIWAN!
April 13-25, 2018
*Intriguing Mountains,
Parks, People and Cities!*



FIRST CLASS

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$4,995 per person twin share (plus air fare of approx. \$1,395 from USA to Taiwan, round trip). Single Supplement is \$995.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; all meals from April 15 - 24 and breakfast April 25; tips to drivers and local guides; entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare; meals on arrival or departure day except breakfast April 25; gratuities to expedition leader; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcohol; beverages at meals, sodas, snacks, personal insurance, or baggage handling (please bring wheeled luggage); or passport.

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travelers who would enjoy exploring the Republic of Taiwan and learning about its natural wealth and cultural heritage, with leadership by an outstanding naturalist. The whole adventure is a rich natural history and cultural experience on a dramatic island, with spectacular peaks, deep canyons, beautiful beaches, and a unique political/cultural background.

We will explore cities and museums, markets, and the countryside, with walks in national parks at a suitable pace for discovery and exploration, a cable car ride, a visit to the top of Taiwan 101, boat at Sun Moon Lake, and visit to an aboriginal village. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who would like to explore this unique island nation.

The group will take time for both planned and spontaneous stops to walk, photograph, and talk with local people. Food will include a varied Taiwanese and international menu. Weather will be warm and balmy, with some rain. We will have a grand adventure of discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Please contact **Taunya at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910** for assistance. You should arrive in Taipei by 5 pm on April 14, 2018.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels and a guest house, all based on twin share. Limited singles are available for a supplement of \$995.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**Taiwan 2018
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due February 2, 2018.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features. Travel insurance is recommended.

Questions?

Please call **Terri Stevens,
Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

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Look on the web:
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