

Hualien, Taiwan

Taiwan's wild east coast delivers jaw-dropping gorge scenery, marble-paved streets, and a deep indigenous culture that big-city ports can't match. Taroko is the draw — but even without it, Hualien earns its place on any Asia itinerary.

Pier (Wharf 23)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$)

Mandarin Chinese

Taroko Gorge nearby

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — Wharf 23 (industrial port, ~5.5 km from city center)

Walk to Center: Not walkable — shuttle bus or taxi required (20 min)

Best For: Taroko Gorge, marble scenery, indigenous food culture

Don't Miss: Bomber scallion pancake on Fuxing Street; Tzen's mochi

 Getting around: **Taxi** NT\$150–250 (~US\$5–8) · **Rideshare** not available · **Hop-on hop-off** Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Taroko Gorge** — Marble canyon carved by the Liwu River — one of Asia's great natural wonders.
 - Whale & Dolphin Watching** — Hualien's Pacific waters host spinner and bottlenose dolphins plus migrating whales.
 - Indigenous Village & Amis Culture** — Hualien has Taiwan's largest indigenous population — Amis, Atayal, and Truku peoples.
- East Coast Scenic Area & Qixingtang Beach** — A crescent of polished marble and black pebbles backed by green mountains.
 - Pine Garden (Songyuan Bieguan, 松園別館)** — A quiet hilltop Japanese colonial villa once used as a recreation center for WWII pilots.

BEST WALKS

- Downtown Hualien City Loop** 2-3 km · Flat · 45-60 min — Walk from the shuttle drop-off near Hualien Railway Station through the Cultural and Creative Industries Park (restored Japanese distillery), along the tree-lined...
- Qixingtang Coastal Path** 2 km · Flat · 30-40 min — Follow the paved coastal path along Qixingtang (Chihsingtan) beach's marble pebble shoreline with views of the Pacific and the mountains.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		76°	66°	21d
Jun		85°	76°	23d
Aug		86°	77°	23d
Sep		84°	75°	23d
Oct		79°	72°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:32AM–6:14PM · Jun 5:06AM–6:42PM · Aug 5:28AM–6:26PM · Sep 5:40AM–5:57PM · Oct 5:51AM–5:27PM

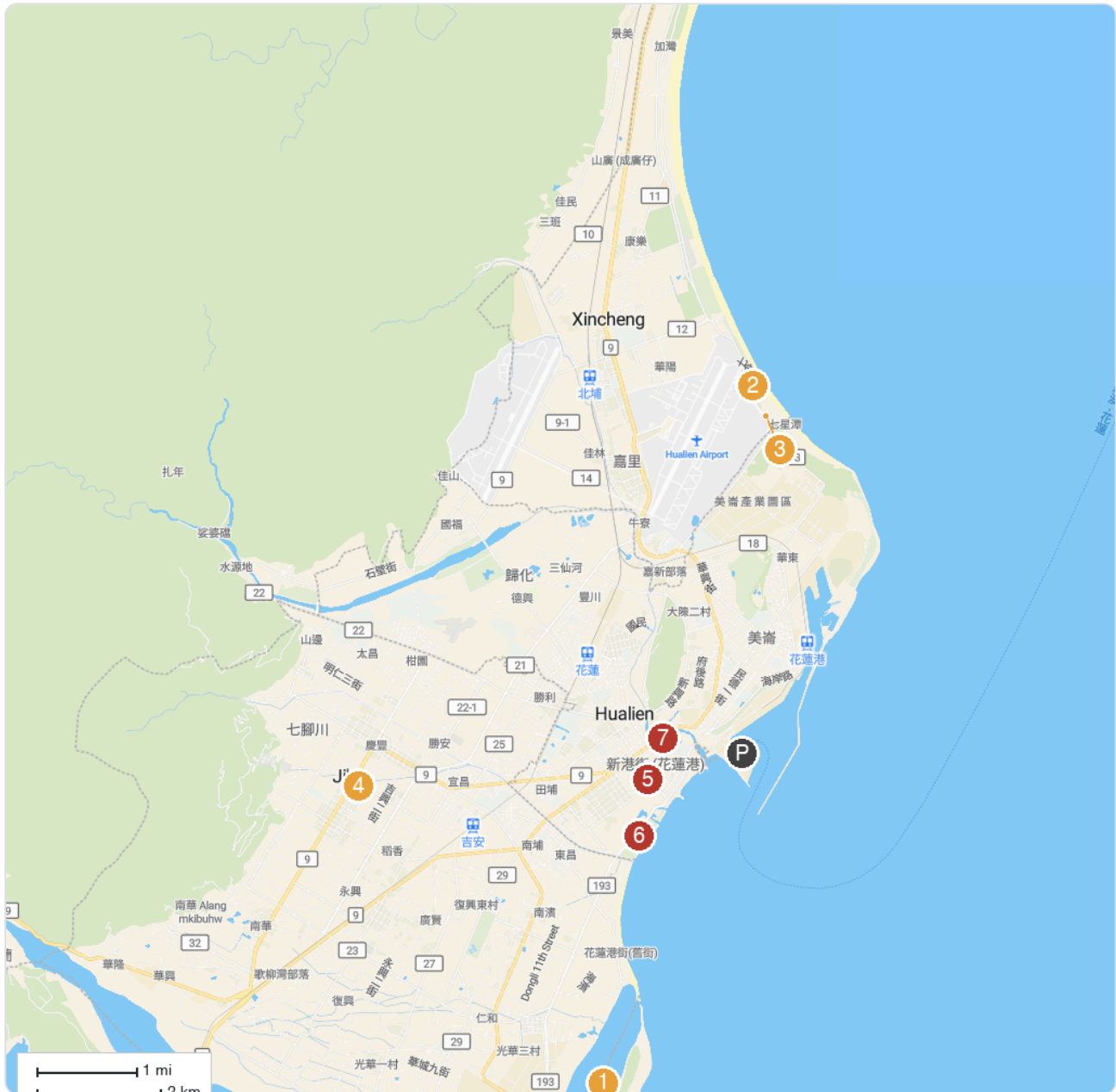
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry cash (NT\$). Taxis, night markets, and street stalls are cash-only. ATMs at the port and 7-Eleven/FamilyMart in town. Credit cards work at department stores and larger restaurants.
- Check Taroko access before you go. The April 2024 earthquake damaged trails and roads inside Taroko National Park. Some sections remain restricted — verify current status when planning excursions.
- Hire a driver for the day. NT\$3,000–4,500 (~\$95–140 USD) gets you a private car for 4–6 hours — the most flexible way to see Taroko on a cruise timeline. English-speaking drivers are available at the pier.
- Pack rain gear. Hualien is subtropical and humid; mountain rain is common year-round. A lightweight packable raincoat and closed-toe shoes are essential for gorge visits.
- Buy mochi to take home. Tzen's Mochi () is Hualien's most famous brand — peanut, sesame, and taro flavors. Shops are everywhere in the city center; they travel well and make excellent gifts.
- Have destinations written in Chinese. Taxi drivers may not speak English. Screenshot your destination in Chinese characters or use Google Translate — (Hualien), (Taroko), (Qixingtang).

Hualien, Taiwan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Farglory Ocean Park | Ocean-themed amusement park with marine life shows and rides. | 2 Qixingtan Scenic Area | Beautiful pebble beach with scenic views of the Pacific Ocean. |
| 3 Chisingtan Katsuo Museum | Museum dedicated to bonito fish, its history, and processing. | 4 Ji'an Qingxiu Temple | Historic Japanese-style Buddhist temple with serene gardens. |
| 5 Hualien Railway Culture Park | Preserved historic railway buildings showcasing Hualien's train heritage. | 6 Taipingyang Park | Coastal park offering ocean views, art installations, and cycling paths. |
| 7 Jiang Jun Fu 1936 | Restored 1936 Japanese general's residence, now a cultural attraction. | P Cruise port / terminal | |