

Taiwan Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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| TELEPHONE: | Country code (00886) + Area code. |
| STANDARD TIME: | GMT + 8 hours. |
| WEIGHTS & MEASURES: | Metric. |
| ELECTRICITY: | Voltage is 110v and standard frequency is 60 Hz. |
| INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS: | Recommended Hepatitis A and B, Japanese Encephalitis and Rabies. |
| PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: | 1st January New Year's Day, Chinese New Year's Eve Day before 1st Day of 1st Lunar month, Chinese New Year Holiday 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Day of 1st Lunar month, 28th February – Peace Memorial Day, Lantern Festival 15th Day of 1st Lunar month, 4th April – Children's Day, 4th or 5th April – Tomb Sweeping Day, Dragon Boat Festival 5th Day of the 5th Lunar Month, Mid Autumn Festival 15th Day of 8th Lunar month, 10th October – National Day, Double Ninth Day 9th Day of the 9th, Lunar month 31st December – Republic Day. |
| OFFICE HOURS: | 09.00 hrs to 17.30 hrs. |
| BANK HOURS: | 09.00 hrs to 15.30 hrs. |
| EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: | 110 – Police / 119 Ambulance & Fire. |
| BRITISH OFFICE: | 26F President International Tower No 9 – 11 Song Gao Road Xin Yin District Taipei 11073 + 886 8758 2088 |
| TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE: | 50 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0EB Tel: 0207 881 2650 |

Part 1 – Background Information on Taiwan

First inhabited by Austronesian people, Taiwan became home to Han immigrants beginning in the late Ming Dynasty (17th century). In 1895, military defeat forced China's Qing Dynasty to cede Taiwan to Japan, which then governed Taiwan for 50 years. Taiwan came under Chinese Nationalist (Kuomintang, KMT) control after World War II. With the communist victory in the Chinese civil war in 1949, the Nationalist-controlled Republic of China government and 2 million Nationalists fled to Taiwan and continued to claim to be the legitimate government for mainland China and Taiwan based on a 1947 Constitution drawn up for all of China. Until 1987, however, the Nationalist government ruled Taiwan under a civil war martial law declaration dating to 1948. Beginning in the 1970s, Nationalist authorities gradually began to incorporate the native population into the governing structure beyond the local level.

The democratization process expanded rapidly in the 1980s, leading to the then illegal founding of Taiwan's first opposition party (the Democratic Progressive Party or DPP) in 1986 and the lifting of martial law the following year. Taiwan held legislative elections in 1992, the first in over forty years, and its first direct presidential election in 1996. In the 2000 presidential elections, Taiwan underwent its first peaceful transfer of power with the KMT loss to the DPP and afterwards experienced two additional democratic transfers of power in 2008 and 2016. Throughout this period, the island prospered, became one of East Asia's economic "Tigers," and after 2000 became a major investor in mainland China as cross-Strait ties matured. The dominant political issues continue to be economic reform and growth as well as management of sensitive relations between Taiwan and China.

Geography and Climate

Though Taiwanese territory includes dozens of small islands in the Taiwan Strait and the Pacific, the main island known as Taiwan covers the vast majority of the land area under Taiwanese administration. Almost two-thirds of Taiwan is covered by mountains, with 258 peaks over 3000m, most of them heavily forested. The highest Yushan (Jade Mountain) is northeast Asia's tallest mountain at 3952m. The mountainous terrain is the result of the island's location – it sits on the fault line of two tectonic plates, and was formed after a dramatic geological upheaval about four or five million years ago. It also sits on the Tropic of Cancer.

The island lies south east of mainland China in the Pacific Ocean. It is north of the Philippines and south of Japan. Taiwan is 394 kilometers long and 144 kilometers wide. The two Pacific islands, Lyuddao (Green Island) and Lanyu (Orchid Island), are popular holiday destinations, while the Taiwan Strait archipelagos of Penghu and Matzu hold historic and cultural appeal.

The combination of climate terrain and topography makes the main island ripe for endemic flora and fauna. There is also a rich bird life on the island.

Despite the island's relatively small size, weather conditions can vary considerably from the north to the south. There is a subtropical climate with moderate temperatures in the north, where rain is common in the winter months. The southern areas, where temperatures are higher on average are less prone to rain.

Summer can be uncomfortably hot across the island. The typhoon season usually comes into effect in late summer and makes itself felt most forcefully on the east coast.

Population

The estimated population for 2018 is about 23.69 million.

Language

Mandarin Chinese is the official language, Hakka is the primary language in townships where half the people are Hakka.

Economy

Taiwan has a dynamic capitalist economy that is driven largely by industrial manufacturing, and especially exports of electronics, machinery, and petrochemicals. This heavy dependence on exports exposes the economy to fluctuations in global demand. Taiwan's diplomatic isolation, low birth rate, rapidly aging population, and increasing competition from China and other Asia Pacific markets are other major long-term challenges.



Following the landmark Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) signed with China in June 2010, Taiwan in July 2013 signed a free trade deal with New Zealand - Taipei's first-ever with a country with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations - and, in November of that year, inked a trade pact with Singapore. However, follow-on components of the ECFA, including a signed agreement on trade in services and negotiations on trade in goods and dispute resolution, have stalled. In early 2014, the government bowed to public demand and proposed a new law governing the oversight of cross-Strait agreements, before any additional deals with China are implemented; the legislature has yet to vote on such legislation, leaving the future of ECFA uncertain.

The island runs a trade surplus with many economies, including China and the US, and its foreign reserves are the world's fifth largest, behind those of China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. In 2006, China overtook the US to become Taiwan's second-largest source of imports after Japan. China is also the island's number one destination for foreign direct investment. Taiwan since 2009 has gradually loosened rules governing Chinese investment and has also secured greater market access for its investors on the mainland. In August 2012, the Taiwan Central Bank signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cross-Strait currency settlement with its Chinese counterpart. The MOU allows for the direct settlement of Chinese renminbi (RMB) and the New Taiwan dollar across the Strait, which has helped Taiwan develop into a local RMB hub.

Religion

Religious freedom is constitutionally guaranteed in Taiwan and the country is host to a diverse range of religions, Buddhism is the most common.

Currency

The Currency in Taiwan is the New Taiwan Dollar.

Notes: NT\$2000, NT\$1000, NT\$500, NT\$200 and NT\$100

Coins: NT\$50, NT\$20, NT\$10, NT\$5 and NT\$1

Education

Education in Taiwan falls under the Ministry of Education, the official language of instruction being Mandarin Chinese, and the academic year runs from September to June.

There is a lack of English-speaking schools in Taipei, and they are also expensive. Mandarin-speaking children have a number of excellent options to choose from.

Healthcare

In general, healthcare in Taiwan is of a high standard, and many doctors have trained in the west and speak English.

The current healthcare system in Taiwan, known as National Health Insurance (NHI), was instituted in 1995. It is a single-payer compulsory social insurance plan that provides equal access to healthcare for all citizens.

Medical care in Taiwan is inexpensive, every Taiwanese national with a Taiwanese ID card or foreigner with an Alien Residency Card must enrol in the system and enrolment is not an option, you can be fined for not joining

The NHI plan provides access to medical benefits such as emergency care, doctors and dental consultations, maternity care and even traditional Chinese medicine. The card you are given carries a chip so that your medical records are with you wherever you go. Every doctor has access to your previous medical records through the memory chip.

All legal residents of Taiwan must be registered in the health insurance program. If you are working, your employer must register you starting the day you are employed. If you are not working, you must apply yourself after a continuous residency of 4 months.

It is required that you undergo a health examination that includes an HIV test, a month after you arrive in the country.



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Part 2 – Taiwan Import Customs Regulations

To the best of our knowledge, the following is required to import household goods and personal effects into Taiwan.

General Information

- **Important:** When you arrive in Taiwan you must proceed through the **Red Channel**, where you must complete (if you have not already done so) a customs declaration form to declare you have household and personal effects being shipped from the UK. This must be passed to immigration and you must also make sure your passport is stamped at this time. Failure to do either of the above will result in taxes and duties being imposed
- You must be in Taiwan when your effects arrive, and your goods must arrive within three months of your own arrival
- All pianos are subject to duties, and some used household goods maybe subject to duties (up to 10% of value), but this is not common
- Only one of each type of electrical appliance is allowed duty free, and your consignment must be generally considered a reasonable amount of used household effects
- Please note your effects may not arrive at your new home in Taiwan in the shipping container because container trailers are prohibited in downtown areas

Documentation Required

- Copy of Passport (photo and signature page)
- Copy of your arrival flight information (e-ticket/boarding pass), and corresponding entry stamp inside your passport, which must be within three months prior to the arrival of your effects
- Packing Inventory (supplied by us)
- Original signed Entrusting Letter (this will be provided by our partner company in Taiwan)
- For foreigners – copy of Work Permit, Alien Resident Certificate or Employment Certificate (front and back pages)
- For returning residents – copy of Taiwanese ID (front and back pages)

Prohibited Items

- Counterfeit coins, security notes, banknotes, plates or dyes for printing or casting forged currencies
- Gambling equipment, lottery tickets and other similar prize tickets issued in foreign countries
- Obscene and indecent books, publications, pictures, articles and videos
- Publications and articles propagating communism
- Although not common, articles produced, manufactured or originated in Communist China, North Korea, Vietnam, Albania, Romania, countries of the former U.S.S.R and Cuba can be confiscated
- Weapons, arms and ammunition, cartridges, explosives, poisonous gas and other weapons of war
- Narcotics and medicines
- Toy guns, ornamental swords and knives
- Articles, infringing the rights of patents, of designs and trademarks and the copyrights of other persons
- Alcohol and Wine

Food

Please do not include in your shipment without first contacting us.



Antiques

Duty free if part of your household and personal effects shipment.

Cars and motorcycles

General Information

- All vehicles attract high duties and taxes
- An import permit must be obtained and approved by Taiwan Government Agency prior to shipping a car
- Only one car per family is allowed
- After customs clearance you must apply for testing at ARTC before being allowed to drive in Taiwan

Documents required

- Copy of relevant pages of your passport
- For Taiwanese passport holder, a copy of your Residents ID is required
- If a foreigner, a copy of your ARC/Residence Certificate is needed
- All relevant documentation relating to the vehicle, i.e. registration document, purchase invoice, insurance etc.

Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates

The Government has established the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures – ISPM Number 15, with the purpose of almost eliminating in its totality the risk of entrance of most of pests that are in quarantine and considerably reducing the risk of other pests.

Please contact us for the treatment specification if you are going construct your own crates.

Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you import your pet to Taiwan.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

Please also see further information on the importing of pets to Taiwan.

<https://www.baphiq.gov.tw/office/hcbaphiq/en/view.php?catid=749>

Endangered Species

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.