

Note from the Asia/Far East

Population and Basic Demographics

Taiwan is a sovereign state in East Asia. Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, consists of the main island of Taiwan, which makes up over 99% of its territory, as well as Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu, and other minor islands.

Taiwan's population is about 23.4 million, most of whom are on the island proper. Over 95% of the population is Han Chinese, of which the majority includes descendants of early Han Chinese immigrants who arrived in Taiwan in large numbers starting in the 17th century. Alternatively, the ethnic groups of Taiwan may be roughly divided among the "Taiwanese" (84%, including Hakka), mainland Chinese (14%), and indigenous peoples (2%).

Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with a population density of 648 people per km² in March 2015. Taipei is the capital, and together with the surrounding cities of New Taipei and Keelung forms the largest metropolitan area on the island.