

THE EAST RIFT VALLEY



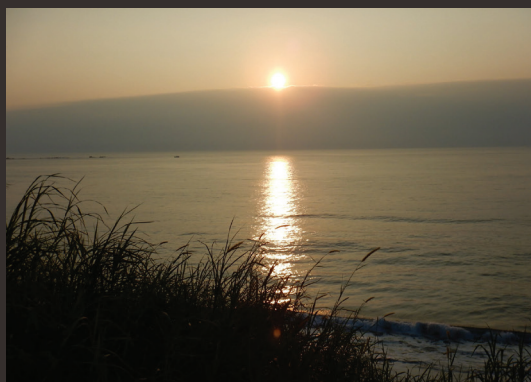
花東縱谷



Join us for our spectacular tour of east Taiwan on two wheels – this is a combination trip which takes you through the East Rift Valley and down the Pacific coast

4

days of cycling



Background

The east of Taiwan is the most underdeveloped and least densely populated part of the island, making it a Mecca for cyclists of all skill levels. We have over 500 km of bike routes in this area that encompass the rolling coast line, the Rift Valley, and numerous points of historical interest.

The east of Taiwan is also famous for its indigenous communities, offering a taste of village life and art. In fact, there are 15 distinct aboriginal tribes in Taiwan; the largest of which, the Amis, are spread throughout Taitung and Hualien.

We also include hiking and biking options to Taroko Gorge – a premiere tourist destination for all tourists to Taiwan. The east of Taiwan is also where you will find the most hot-spring resorts.

Itinerary

Our tours can accommodate hard-core cyclists or families with children. We can cover as few as 50 km or as many as 120 km per day, over a period of 3 to 4 days, making the East Coast appealing to all skill levels. There is allowance for plenty of rest stops as well as potential stops for other activities.

You will never spend more than one or two hours on the bikes without taking a rest, so you can expect frequent stops for scenic areas, snack and toilet breaks or hot beverages at any time of day – we will have these supplies in a support vehicle. With a support vehicle, any one can take time off the bike if they should feel so inclined.

Between Taitung and Hualien there are over a dozen points of interest worth visiting. We won't have time to visit all of them, but we would recommend San Xian Tai Island, the Aboriginal Art Village, Ba Xian Caves, a beach area or two and the Tropic of Cancer Marker.

Other points of interest include; Xiao Ye Liu Geological Park, Water Running Up, Qinhuzhizi Cliffs, Jiqi Beach and the Baqi Gazebo, to name a few.

Inclusions

All expenses for entrance fees (where necessary), food and drinks are included. Adult drinks in the evening are not included.

Your guides are bilingual and have years of experience on cycling tours, so you can be confident that we have your best interests at heart.

Our base prices do not take into account accommodations, so please advise us on your preference so we can give a more accurate estimate. Do you prefer cozy or exceedingly comfortable? Will you be sharing a room with a family, a couple, two singles? Do you need a support vehicle? If not we can use tour bikes, which will greatly influence the overall price.

Conditioning

To help you decide which trip to go on we typically divide them into 5 categories, labeled with stars. They increase in difficulty as follows:

Category 1 (★)

pleasant outdoor activity, you can take your grandmother on this one

Category 2 (★★)

easy, doesn't involve any particularly strenuous activity

Category 3 (★★★)

difficult, tiring, but not exhausting

Category 4 (★★★★)

quite difficult, should be above average fitness

Category 5 (★★★★★)

extremely difficult; riders should be in excellent physical condition

HOT SPRINGS

THERE ARE 4 MAJOR HOT SPRING AREAS IN EASTERN TAIWAN – RUISUI, ANTONG, HONGYEH, AND ZHIH BEN

Note: You can often downgrade a trip by one category by adding an extra day or by minimizing the load you carry.

Booking

To start the process for any trip we require a passport or ARC copy and a 20% deposit for the total cost of the trip.

You must also provide your home address, contact phone number, and the name and contact number for next of kin for insurance purposes.

Trip Options

☐ Self-Guided

We provide bikes, panniers (saddle bags), and fully notated bilingual maps with distances and elevation changes, allowing you to choose between flat, undulating, or mountainous routes. Hybrid bikes with flat bars available.

☐ Guided Without Support Vehicle

Our guides will lead your group, offering instruction and tips to keep you comfortable on the bikes. Road or hybrid bikes available.

☐ Fully Supported

This one is for the roadies. Support vehicle provided with food and drinks to keep you on the rivet all day. Good quality selection of aluminum and carbon fiber bikes available.

Safety and Legal

Cyclists under 20 years old must provide a letter of consent from a parent or guardian. All cyclists are covered by travel insurance which covers accidents, injuries and medical evacuation if needed. Those over 65 must provide insurance documentation.

Our guides have decades of experience and Blue Skies Adventures® prioritizes hiker safety. However, accidents, inclement weather and other unforeseen or unpreventable events occasionally occur. It is important that all information provided by guests be accurate as of the trip date. Some trips can be physically demanding, and it's important that cyclists know their limits and keep their physical condition in mind before signing up. If you are unsure about whether a trip is suitable for you, please consult a physician.

In addition, we insist that guided cyclists comply with all guide directives throughout the course of the trip. Our guides have your best interests in mind and may need to change course, itinerary, or even delay or cancel an activity due to unforeseen conditions or circumstances.

Failure to comply with Blue Skies Adventures® safety regulations may result in non-refundable activity termination.

Weather

The ideal seasons for riding are Spring (from March to May) and Autumn (from October to December) both of which have the least chance of precipitation.

We provide trips year round, but the summer months of June – August are not recommended.

For August and September, there is a risk of trips being diverted due to typhoons. Guests should keep that in mind when booking their adventure.

RAFTING

THE XIOUGULUAN
IS THE LARGEST RIVER
IN EASTERN TAIWAN
AND A PERENNIAL
FAVORITE FOR
WHITEWATER
RAFTING

Refunds

Once your trip is booked and equipment issued, we cannot refund your deposit. Within 2 months of the date of departure we will refund 50%. Within one month of the date of departure no refund can be made.

BE ADVISED: It is not possible to change names once they have been entered on the insurance documentation.

Equipment

We will send you a separate checklist of what you need to take on the trip and why. Sometimes there will be hot springs arranged for the trip, for which you'll need swimming gear. Not all items are essential, but the trip may be more enjoyable if you have better or more appropriate gear. Never take cotton clothes for your day time activities – use synthetic fabrics which dry more easily.

Rather than buying new gear, try to make do with what you have. ***If you are going to spend, put the money into your cycling shorts.*** Let us know if you need anything else, as additional equipment may be available for rent.



Prices

Prices vary according to the length of the trip, support vehicle, bike rental, and accommodation type. Per person base rates (in US dollars) are below, though they may vary.

2-day standard (★★)	\$ 300
3-day extended (★★★)	\$ 400
4-day advanced (★★★★)	\$ 500
5-day extreme (★★★★★)	\$ 600



Why Us

Our guides, drivers, and assistants have over 20 years of cycling experience. We provide comprehensive service and cover all your needs from door to door. We are able to work with the local government to ensure all trips are properly permitted and insured.

Our experience on Taiwan's roads is unrivaled and we have recommendations going back decades. Our safety record is considerable and we maintain a flexible, individual focus geared toward giving our guests the best possible experience. We are able to make international visitors to Taiwan feel comfortable and at ease while traversing East Asia's hidden treasure.

Contact us for more information:

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TRIVIA

THE TROPIC OF CANCER RUNS THROUGH THE CENTER OF TAIWAN, WITH TWO MARKERS ON THE EAST COAST

