TAIWAN: FUTURE TECH & INNOVATION

14-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Step inside Hsinchu Science Park and innovative start-up hubs to discover the fascinating world of semiconductors, robotics and modern tech entrepreneurship
- Experience university life in Taiwan by connecting with local students and exploring exciting academic and career pathways in STEM
- Release a traditional sky lantern in Shifen, write your wishes and watch them rise into the sky
- Discover Taiwan's rich culinary traditions through hands-on pineapple cake baking, tea tasting and exploring vibrant night markets
- Cruise across Sun Moon Lake, ride Alishan's scenic mountain train and marvel at the natural wonders of Yehliu Geopark and Shifen Waterfall
- Experience Taiwan's unique blend of ancient traditions and futuristic innovation across historic neighborhoods and bustling modern cities

ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Light

2027 PROGRAM DATES

- July 11 - July 24

GET IN TOUCH!

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Step inside one of the world's most dynamic innovation hubs on this 14-day pre-professional journey exploring STEM, engineering and global entrepreneurship.

OVERVIEW

Discover the future of technology in Taiwan, one of the world's leading hubs for innovation, robotics and semiconductor manufacturing. This immersive program takes student travelers beyond the classroom to explore the technologies shaping our world, from artificial intelligence and automation to the microchips powering everyday devices. Through visits to innovative start-up hubs, technology centers and universities, students gain firsthand insight into Taiwan's thriving tech industry, participate in hands-on robotics experiences and discover exciting career pathways in STEM, engineering and entrepreneurship.

Beyond the world of technology, experience Taiwan's fascinating blend of ancient traditions, vibrant culture and breathtaking natural beauty. Explore bustling night markets, release a traditional sky lantern, discover the art of Taiwanese tea and try your hand at making pineapple cakes. Journey through the misty mountain forests of Alishan, cruise the scenic waters of Sun Moon Lake and explore the dramatic coastal landscapes of Yehliu Geopark.

Certified B Corporation









ITINERARY

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

DAY 1 : WELCOME TO TAIWAN!

Touch down in Taiwan and get ready for an unforgettable adventure! Meet your GLA team and fellow travelers as you settle into the vibrant capital city of Taipei. Take in breathtaking views from the iconic Taipei 101 Observatory before diving into the sights, sounds and flavors of Shilin Night Market.

DAY 2: INNOVATION MEETS TRADITION

Discover why Taiwan is becoming a global hub for technology and entrepreneurship! Explore the exciting world of start-ups and innovation with a visit to Taiwan Tech Arena. Then, discover Taipei's creative side at Songshan Cultural & Creative Park and visit the impressive Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, connecting Taiwan's innovative present with its rich history and cultural heritage.

DAY 3: START-UPS, CREATIVITY & YOUTH CULTURE

Step into Taiwan's dynamic entrepreneurial world and discover how creative ideas become successful businesses. Explore an innovation hub to learn about start-ups, business development and the technologies driving change. Continue to Huashan 1914 Creative Park, historic industrial spaces that have been transformed into a vibrant center for art and design. End the day exploring Ximending, Taipei's energetic youth district filled with colorful street culture, fashion and creativity.

DAY 4: NATURAL WONDERS & SKY LANTERN WISHES

Escape the city and discover Taiwan's spectacular natural beauty! Explore the otherworldly rock formations of Yehliu Geopark, shaped by thousands of years of wind and ocean erosion. Continue to the breathtaking Shifen Waterfall before wandering through the charming streets of Shifen Old Street. Experience a beloved local tradition as you decorate a sky lantern with your hopes and wishes and watch it rise into the sky.

DAY 5: TRADITIONS & SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Journey through centuries of art and history at the National Palace Museum, home to an extraordinary collection of cultural treasures. Then, explore the National Taiwan Science Education Center, where interactive exhibits bring scientific discoveries and innovation to life. Round out the day with a traditional Taiwanese tea-tasting experience, one of Taiwan's most celebrated traditions.

DAY 6: DISCOVERING TAIWAN'S CULTURAL ROOTS

Explore the fascinating Beitou district, known for its natural hot springs and unique cultural heritage. Discover how architecture, community spaces and local traditions come together through visits to Beitou Library and the Hot Spring Museum. Learn about Taiwan's Indigenous cultures at the Ketagalan Culture Center before enjoying a relaxing hot-spring foot bath. It's a chance to slow down and discover a different side of life in Taiwan.

DAY 7: ROBOTS, MICROCHIPS & THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

Get ready for a day of exciting technological discoveries! Travel to Hsinchu, the heart of Taiwan's semiconductor industry, to explore the fascinating world of microchips and advanced technology. Learn how these tiny









DAY 7: ROBOTS, MICROCHIPS & THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY - CONTINUED

innovations power everything from smartphones to artificial intelligence and why Taiwan plays such an important role in the global technology industry.

DAY 8: CREATIVITY, CRAFTSMANSHIP & LOCAL HERITAGE

Discover the artistic side of Hsinchu as you explore its long tradition of glassmaking and craftsmanship. Wander through Hsinchu's historic streets and green spaces, discovering how the city blends its rich cultural heritage with modern development and innovation.

DAY 9: EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE: UNIVERSITY LIFE IN TAIWAN

Get a glimpse into student life in Taiwan through a university visit and opportunities to connect with local students. Discover different academic pathways, explore the campus environment and learn how higher education connects with Taiwan's growing technology and innovation industries. Reflect on your own interests and future career possibilities before continuing your journey into the beautiful Nantou region.

DAY 10: DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF SUN MOON LAKE

Trade city streets for the peaceful beauty of Sun Moon Lake, one of Taiwan's most spectacular natural destinations. Cruise across the lake, surrounded by lush mountains and breathtaking scenery, and discover how tourism, local communities and environmental sustainability are connected. Enjoy the fresh air and incredible views before continuing your journey toward Chiayi!

DAY 11: ALISHAN FOREST ADVENTURE

Venture into the breathtaking mountain landscapes of Alishan, famous for its towering trees, misty forests and scenic railway. Explore the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area and experience a memorable journey aboard a mountain forest train. Discover Taiwan's remarkable biodiversity and learn about the importance of protecting its natural ecosystems before continuing to the vibrant city of Taichung.

DAY 12: ART, ARTCHITECTURE & NIGHT MARKET ADVENTURES

Discover Taichung's striking architecture, modern art and lively urban culture. Visit the remarkable National Taichung Theater and explore the trendy Park Lane district, where design, shopping and green spaces come together. In the evening, experience the Fengjia Night Market, one of Taiwan's most famous night markets!

DAY 13: SWEET TRADITIONS & ACADEMIC INSIGHT

Return to Taipei for a final day of cultural discovery and career exploration. Try your hand at making Taiwan's famous pineapple cakes during a fun, hands-on workshop, learning about the history behind this beloved local treat. Then, explore university life at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, gaining insight into Taiwan's academics and opportunities in science, technology and innovation.

DAY 14: DEPARTURES

As your incredible adventure comes to an end, say goodbye to your GLA family and reflect on the discoveries, friendships and experiences you've shared. Leave Taiwan with new perspectives, greater confidence and inspiration for your future. Your GLA team will assist with airport transfers as you begin your journey home. Zàijiàn, Taiwan!

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $6,599
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Hotels & Student Accommodations
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE)

GLA HOME BASE

Throughout your Taiwan adventure, you'll stay in comfortable, student-friendly accommodations across several destinations, including Taipei, Hsinchu, Nantou, Chiayi and Taichung. Accommodations may include hotels or hostels. Rooms will typically be shared with other GLA students, with access to essential amenities and common spaces where available.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - GLA Home Base 1: TBA
  - GLA Home Base 2: TBA
- Air conditioning
  - GLA Home Base 1: TBA
  - GLA Home Base 2: TBA
- Remote
  - GLA Home Base 1: TBA
  - GLA Home Base 2: TBA

FOOD

Food is an exciting part of your adventure in Taiwan, where traditional flavors meet modern food culture! Discover a variety of local favorites such as dumplings, beef noodle soup, scallion pancakes, bubble tea and sweet treats. As you travel across Taiwan, experience the regional flavors and culinary traditions that make each destination unique.

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

CLIMATE

Taiwan has a subtropical to tropical climate, with warm temperatures, high humidity and occasional rain during the summer months. In June and July, temperatures in cities like Taipei, Hsinchu and Taichung typically range from 26–35°C (79–95°F), so expect hot, humid days with the possibility of afternoon showers or thunderstorms. Mountain destinations such as Alishan are generally cooler, especially in the mornings and evenings. Lightweight, breathable clothing, comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, a rain jacket and a reusable water bottle are recommended. Be prepared for a mix of sunny skies, tropical rain and cooler mountain air as you explore Taiwan's diverse landscapes!

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times
USA TODAY
NBC NEWS
The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

BE PRESENT | Our mission at GLA is "to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it." To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The environment may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their experience can transform their perspective. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

NO TOLERANCE | GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

COMMUNITY-LED EXPERIENCES | GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

MENTORSHIP | GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CONTACT US | Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

ENROLL NOW | We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at **www.experiencegla.com/enroll.**