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WillMyPhoneWork.net can help you find the answer you're looking for. All you need to do is select a mobile device (cellphone, smartphone, or tablet) from the drop-down lists below. Then, choose a mobile carrier network that you would like to use the device on. It's that SIMPLE! Our goal is to be the most accurate and definitive source for device compatibility information. Getting started When performing a search, you will be presented with three networks: 2G, 3G, and 4G LTE. For the technical savvy, we have included the network frequencies that match between the mobile device and the network carrier. Also, we consider HSPA+ to be 3G. Note: Will My Phone Work assumes that your device is unlocked or allowed to be run on the desired mobile network. Certain carriers such as Verizon in the USA have an "approved list" of devices. This means that although the phone is compatible with the carrier's network frequencies, the device is blocked. Also, some carriers make frequencies/bands available only to specific geographical regions. Icon Legend Device is compatible with the network carrier Device is compatible with some of the network carrier's frequencies. It may work. Device is not compatible with the network carrier Search Criteria Mobile networks and carriers in Taiwan use 1 UMTS band, 5 LTE bands, and 2 5G NR bands. Find out if your unlocked phone or mobile device will work in Taiwan. See the tables below for details. Will your phone or mobile device work in Taiwan? Click the link below to find out. Check device compatibility Taiwan's mobile network is dominated by two major players: Taiwan Mobile and Chunghwa Telecom. Taiwan Mobile is the second largest telecom company in Taiwan, following Chunghwa Telecom. It was previously known as Pacific Cellular Corporation (PCC) and was part of the Pacific Electric Wire & Cable Co., Ltd. (PEWC) group. PEWC initially invested in Iridium LLC and later expanded into various wireless licenses in China, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In the late 1990s, PEWC returned to Taiwan to bid for local telecom licenses, eventually becoming Taiwan Mobile. Taiwan Mobile operates on several frequency bands, including 2100 MHz for UMTS/WCDMA, 700 MHz for LTE-A, 1800 MHz for LTE-A, 3.5 GHz for 5G NR, and 28 GHz for 5G NR. The company has also merged with Taiwan Star Telecom to expand its 5G network and focus on green energy consumption in communications. The Taiwanese government has played a significant role in the development of the country's technology industry, including its mobile network. This strategic investment has contributed to Taiwan's robust industrial system and its ability to leverage information technology effectively, particularly in the context of digital democracy and governance. Carriers Select a carrier to see frequency details Don't see the carrier you're looking for? Leave a comment below and we'll add it! Frequencies in use UMTS Name Interface B1 (2100 MHz) UMTS LTE 5G NR Name Interface N1 (2100 MHz) 5G NR N78 (3500 MHz) 5G NR Latest updates Taiwan, the "beautiful isle", is a land of natural wonder, electric cities and layers, fascinating culture. One of Asia's most progressive societies, it's also one of its most tech-forward, a global leader in advanced chips and semiconductors that power everything from smartphones to satellites. Chances are, the device you're reading this on has a little bit of Taiwan inside. Unlike mainland China across the strait, Taiwan doesn't censor its internet behind a "Great Firewall" or block certain apps, meaning all the tools you might need for a great trip - Google Maps, Instagram, Uber, Google Translate and whatever else - are openly accessible. So here's everything you need to know about getting connected in Taiwan, from local cell phone networks to the best eSIM providers. Beitou hot springs, near Taipei. TkKurikawa/Getty Images Will my phone work in Taiwan?Yes, modern smartphones should work without a hitch in Taiwan, but roaming with a US carrier can get expensive pretty quickly. The likes of Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile charge eye-watering rates for Pay As You Go calls, messages and data in Taiwan. And be aware that data usage mounts up faster than you think. One gigabyte might last a couple of days if you're just checking locations on Google Maps, looking things up online and sending messages and emails; but if you plan to stream movies and TV shows, or upload reams of photos and videos, it'll be gone in a flash. Advertisement At the very least you'll want to purchase an international roaming package, such as Verizon's TravelPass, which for Taiwan costs US\$12 per day plus tax. Do the math, though, and a few days in the country adds up to a hefty outlay. If your phone is unlocked, options like local SIM cards or international eSIMs, such as Sally or Airalo, can be a much smarter, cheaper investment.What mobile networks are available in Taiwan/Taiwan has three major mobile networks: Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan Mobile and FarEasTone. Chunghwa Telecom: the biggest and most established provider, which also has the widest coverage, extending to cover remote wilderness regions. FarEasTone: considered the top player in terms of 5G coverage, especially in Taipei and other cities. Taiwan Mobile: the second-largest network overall, strong in urban centers and with some of the fastest and most reliable 4G speeds across the country. There's nothing to choose between the three carriers when it comes to costs and packages for prepaid SIM cards for short-term visitors. All sell cards at both 4G and 5G speeds, and you can select coverage that offers unlimited data over three to 30 days. Prices start at NT\$300 (US\$9.02) for a three- or five-day prepaid 4G SIM with unlimited data, up to NT\$1600 (US\$48) for a 30-day card with 5G speed and unlimited data. These cards generally also include a small amount of local call credit, for making calls within Taiwan. The National Palace Museum, Taipei. Avigator Fortune/Shutterstock How can I get a local SIM card?All three mobile networks have sales counters at Taoyuan International Airport (TPE), Taiwan's main hub and the arrival point for most international flights. You'll also find kiosks at Songshan (TSA) and Kaohsiung (KHH) airports. English-speaking staff can help you set up your SIM on the spot. You can also preorder a SIM online, using third-party service providers like KKday, and collect it at the airport. It's generally best to grab a SIM card at the airport, since the registration process requires your passport. You can do it later by popping into a store run by one of the three mobile carriers, but English language levels might vary, wait times could be longer, and you might also be required to provide two forms of ID (passport and driving license, for example), which could be a hassle. Convenience stores aren't a good bet since they mostly sell prepaid SIMs for residents, which require local ID or an ARC (Alien Resident Certificate).Once your new SIM is activated, check the data is working before you hightail it out of there and start your trip. Your phone number is usually on the back of your SIM card packaging - write it down or add it to your phone contacts list so you can share it with people you know.Is eSIM available in Taiwan and how does it work?A more straightforward solution, and one you can take care of before you fly, is getting an eSIM. Taiwan's mobile networks don't generally provide eSIMs for short-term visitors, but the country is fully compatible with international eSIM services. Advertisement eSIMs offer a few advantages to a physical SIM:It can be bought anywhere, even before you leave home, so you have access as soon as you land. There's no need for a passport, fingerprint or address required.You don't need to remove your current SIM.You can use several carriers and phone numbers at once.If you run out of data, it's easy to add more. They're available on some smartphones, tablets and watches.Getting an eSIM is a great time-saver since you can set it up before your trip and avoid hanging around in the airport arrivals fiddling with phones and SIM cards when you've just stepped off a flight. Another advantage is that your eSIM will be working as soon as you've landed, meaning you can get connected without delay. Let loved ones know you've arrived safely, organize your onward journey, and move on from the airport hassle-free. There is a range of eSIM providers out there, but Lonely Planet recommends Sally as our eSIM partner for Taiwan. As well as offering a wide variety of eSIM packages - starting at just US\$3.79 for 1GB for seven days but going up to 20GB for 30 days - Sally's eSIMs come with enhanced security features such as the ability to change your virtual location and block ads and tracking services. Use code LP5 to receive 5 percent off your Sally mobile data plan. Sun Moon Lake, central Taiwan. Jack Hong/Shutterstock Where can I find reliable wi-fi in Taiwan?There's a number of places you can find wi-fi in Taiwan:Taoyuan International Airport provides free wi-fi service in its public areas, meaning you can get online pretty much as soon as you transition from the airplane cabin to the arrivals terminal.Trains and stations on Taiwan High Speed Rail (THSR) offer free wi-fi, and the same goes for Taoyuan Metro and the Taoyuan Airport MRT. When you're out and about, looks for free public wi-fi at coffee chains like Starbucks, convenience stores, and at major tourist attractions like the National Palace Museum in Taipei.Hotels and guesthouses all typically offer free wi-fi for guests and visitors, and look out for Taiwan free wi-fi hot spots, a government scheme with locations all over the country. When using public wi-fi in Taiwan, take care if sending or receiving sensitive information such as when using online banking or entering passwords. If you need to send sensitive data, consider using your phone data instead, or connecting via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to ensure you're 100% secure.How fast and reliable is the internet?Unsurprisingly for such a tech-loving nation, internet speeds and reliability are towards the top end of global standards. In the Speedtest Global Index, a ranking of internet speeds by country, Taiwan comes in at a very respectable 17th in the world for fixed broadband performance and 29th for mobile. Are there any internet restrictions or censorship laws?No, progressive Taiwan has a notably free and open online environment. Freedom House, a nonprofit that conducts research and advocacy on political freedom and human rights, reports that Taiwan "hosts one of the freest online environments in Asia" with an information landscape characterized by "affordable internet access, diverse content, and a lack of website blocks or internet shutdowns". Cihnu Bridge in Taroko Gorge. Matt Munro/Lonely Planet Can I stay connected at major tourist sites?Yes, major tourist attractions in Taipei, including the National Palace Museum and Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, offer free public wi-fi. Off the beaten track in places like Taroko Gorge, head to the nearest tourist information office or visitor center to get connected. Will I encounter language barriers when getting connected?Levels of spoken English in Taiwan are generally good, especially among the young, and the three main network providers have 24-hour customer hotlines in English, so it's unlikely you'll run into any insurmountable language barriers, and you'll be absolutely fine if purchasing and setting up a SIM in Taoyuan Airport. How much does it cost to stay connected in Taiwan?Taiwan's three mobile networks have pretty much identical pricing on their products, and all offer unlimited data at either 4G (cheaper) or 5G, with the price varying depending on the number of days: either three, five, seven, 10, 15 or 30 days. The cheapest option is three days of 4G for NT\$300 (US\$9.02), while seven days of 5G costs NT\$800 (US\$24), and 15 days comes in at NT\$1200 (US\$36). International eSIM providers, including Sally, tend to charge for units of data either through their website, or through their app. For light users, or those on a longer trip, this can be economical: seven days with a 1GB limit costs just US\$3.79, while 5GB over 30 days costs US\$11.39. Wi-Fi passes aren't really an option in Taiwan, but Taiwan hosts free wi-fi hot spots at locations like tourist information centers, visitor centers, transport hubs and other public areas all over the country. Tai chi at the Confucius Temple in the southern city of Taiwan. Matt Munro/Lonely Planet What local customs or etiquette should I be aware of?Taiwanese phone etiquette is generally polite, though speakerphone use is especially common among older generations. On public transport, it's expected that passengers set their phones to silent mode. When it comes to messaging, LINE is by far the most popular app, used for everything from texting and voice calls to following official accounts for businesses and services.Taiwan's trains and long-distance buses are equipped with USB charging ports and power sockets. Taiwan uses a standard voltage of 110V at 60Hz, and the most common plug type is Type A (two flat parallel pins, like in the US), though you'll also find three-pronged Type B.How do I contact emergency services if needed?In an emergency, use the following numbers:Police: 110Fire and ambulance: 119Operators may not always speak English, but Taiwan has a dedicated 24-hour tourist hotline (0800-011-765) with English-speaking staff who can assist in emergencies. If calling from a mobile, you may need to dial +886 800-011-765. There are kiosks at Taoyuan Airport that sell SIM cards and mobile wi-fi devices. Both of these can be ordered in advance either through the companies at the airport or online via sites such as KKday. Keep in mind that the airport SIM card desks close at 8:00 pm. Since data plans are inexpensive, it's worth foregoing the mobile wi-fi in favor of the SIM, especially if you're staying for a long period of time. If you're not in a rush, however, it's worth noting that it is cheaper to get a local SIM card at Taiwan Mobile, FarEasTone, or Chunghwa Telecom shops throughout Taiwan. All you need is your passport to purchase a SIM card and a data plan. All three companies offer more or less the same services and prices. Pre-paid and contract mobile service in Taiwan A basic 3G pay-as-you-go data plan with Taiwan Mobile is NT\$180 for 1.2GB, which is valid for two months. To add calling to the plan, it costs NT\$300. Taiwan Mobile's 4G pre-paid package costs NT\$300 for 1.2GB of data (valid for 60 days) and NT\$500 for 2.2 GB. For short-term visitors in Taiwan, they also offer a three-day unlimited data plan for NT\$300. Wi-Fi is available in most places in Taiwan, but most of it requires a login to use. In some cases, the wi-fi service will require a local SIM card. Coffee shops and most bars have password-protected wi-fi for customers. Chunghwa Telecom offers a pre-paid public wi-fi service for visitors, with a one-day card for NT\$99, three days for NT\$199, and seven days for NT\$299. A one-month wi-fi card costs NT\$399. However, the service provider offers discounts for anyone ordering the wi-fi service online. Annual contracts are more expensive than the lowest-tier of the pay-as-you-go plan but offer more data and calling. Annual contracts also include subsidies to purchase a new phone in Taiwan (the total subsidy differs depending on the plan you choose). Home Internet Service in Taiwan Most apartment rentals in Taiwan include cable and internet services. For those that don't, all three telecom companies offer home broadband service, which often comes coupled with cable television in a package deal. In comparison to Western countries, cable and internet packages in Taiwan are relatively affordable, and packages have not yet been compartmentalized, requiring customers to choose between various bundles categorized by type of channel/genre, which tends to drive up the price. In Taiwan, though there are varied grades of cable available, one price gets you movie channels, news, sports, and virtually everything else. Read also Accommodation in Taiwan Click for more information on Chunghwa Telecom HiNet, including prices. Aside from phone and internet service, most Taiwanese do not communicate via phone calls or text messages. LINE is the most popular messaging and calling app available in Taiwan. Most companies, including taxi services and restaurants, will use LINE to contact customers. WhatsApp is also used, though not as frequently as LINE. Getting a mobile phone in Taiwan A few years back, getting a new cell phone from one of the local phone companies required both a local co-signor (to guarantee that your bill would be paid in the event that you left the country without paying first) and even a deposit for the same reason. Those days are mostly gone, with only some companies insisting on deposits sometimes. Today, all you need is a local address for the purposes of signing up for the purchase of the phone and a monthly payment plan. This is so the phone company will have somewhere to send your monthly statement. However, as paper bills are no longer required, and e-bills are much more convenient, the address is not all that important. It's just a box that needs to be filled in for the purposes of completing the application form. Besides, two forms of ID are usually required to purchase a phone and phone plan, one of which must be an ARC or APRC. If you are going to buy a new phone along with a data/calling plan, phone companies in Taiwan will offer discounts on the phone that increase with how much you spend on the phone itself and the data plan you want to sign up for. If you're going to buy a brand-new, latest-model iPhone, for example, and want to sign up for unlimited data (called "all you can eat" in Mandarin), your phone will be sold to you at a heavy discount. If, however, you simply want to pay as you go, with no data plan, then you will most likely have to pay the phone's full cost. Contracts are generally one year and renew automatically unless you specifically make a request to end the contract after the one-year period of service expires. Most phone companies in Taiwan offer their own apps through which monthly bill payments can be set up automatically if you also have a local bank account. Generally, these apps are all in Chinese, so it requires either knowledge of the written language or a local friend to help you out. If you wish to receive a paper copy of your statement each month, one can be mailed to you, and the bill can be paid either at the nearest branch of the phone company or at virtually any convenience store in Taiwan. Phones can also be purchased from brands such as Apple (iPhone), Samsung, the local brand HTC, Oppo, and more, at their own stores, and then the phone can be taken to one of the local phone companies to apply for a local phone number and data plan. This option means that you pay the full price for the phone. Although, in reality, even when purchasing a phone from the local phone company and receiving a discount means that you simply pay for the phone long-term, the cost is hidden within the monthly bill, it may still work out to be slightly cheaper to do so rather than buy a phone direct from one of the manufacturers, and then signing up for a local number/data plan. Shop around both in terms of the phone and the data plan for the best possible deal. Phone and internet service quality in Taiwan Whether connecting to the internet at home or via your phone, service throughout Taiwan's major cities of Taipei, Taichung, and Kaohsiung is generally very fast and consistent, with local companies offering speeds of at least 4G. If you are heading up into mountainous regions in the Central or Coastal ranges, however, service can dip in and out and, at times, cut out altogether. If you require constant connectivity and will be traveling in the mountains—for the purposes of hiking or camping, for example—the only way to ensure 100 percent connectivity at all times is to have a satellite phone on hand. Taiwan is covered by most major satellite phone providers. The same applies to phone service, which is consistent in major cities and counties, but can be spotty if one travels to more isolated mountain areas. Read also Working in Taiwan If you have settled in Taiwan and have a local phone contract, it's likely that eventually, you will want to travel outside of Taiwan, either to take a holiday or for a trip back to your home country. Of course, if you wish, when you arrive at your destination, you can always get a local SIM card at the airport and use that for the duration of your stay. Another option, however, is to purchase a prepaid phone and data package for overseas territories that will grant you the ability to make local calls and have access to the internet via your phone without incurring heavy roaming charges. Phone companies in Taiwan offer prepaid phone and data packages which are available for purchase via their own phone app, or in person at their retail locations. When using the app, knowledge of written Chinese is often required. Cost depends on the region one is traveling to and the duration of one's travels. Once the package is purchased, you will be able to get online and make calls via the local network in your destination without incurring roaming charges. The overall cost will likely be higher than simply purchasing a local pay-as-you-go SIM card, but it eliminates the headache of changing SIMs, purchasing more call time or data, etc. Are public Wi-Fi networks safe in Taiwan? As is the case in most places, it is not wise nor completely safe to utilize public Wi-Fi networks in order to do things such as online banking or any other similar sensitive activity. Such activity opens one up to the possibility of their passwords and personal information being stolen by others on the public network and can result in such troubles as misused credit card and/or identity theft. Even if the public Wi-Fi network is password protected, it is still better to be safe than sorry. Mobile pocket Wi-Fi units If you are traveling in Taiwan with family or a group of friends, another option when it comes to internet access via phone or computer is a mobile pocket Wi-Fi unit. These come with unlimited 4G internet access for up to five simultaneous users and are available for rent for just NT\$100 per day. Counters renting these units can be found at Taoyuan International Airport, Taipei Songshan Airport, and at Kaohsiung Airport. Curious about the best practices for use cell phone in Taiwan? Do you know where you'd be most comfortable? Using this guide, which outlines the options for simple communication, you can stay connected and enjoy your stay in this vibrant island nation to the fullest. First things first: how to use a cell phone in Taiwan. Mobile networks in Taiwan that use the GSM standard are completely compatible with most foreign smartphone models. 4G networks mostly use the 700 MHz, 900 MHz, and 1800 MHz bands, while 5G networks rapidly expand throughout Taiwan. The big three Taiwanese carriers—FarEasTone, Chunghwa Telecom, and Taiwan Mobile—will keep your connection steady throughout your trip. To make travel easier, Taiwan's networks perform best with phones with dual-band or tri-band capabilities. Electronic SIM cards are quickly gaining traction in Taiwan, giving international visitors a convenient alternative. Yes, your cell phone line is likely to work in Taiwan if it supports the local network frequencies and standards. However, compatibility can vary based on your device and carrier. To ensure your phone will work seamlessly, let's delve into the specifics: GSM Bands: In Taiwan, GSM networks are mostly used. You're in a good place if your phone supports GSM. 4G/LTE Bands: For a trouble-free 4G experience, make sure your phone supports one of these LTE bands: B1 (2100 MHz), B3 (1800 MHz), B8 (900 MHz), or B28 (700 MHz). 5G: Taiwan is the first country to roll out 5G, so see whether your phone can handle the regional 5G bands. CarrierGSM3G4G/LTE Bands5G BandsChunghwa TelecomYesYesB1 (2100 MHz), B3 (1800 MHz), B8 (900 MHz), B28 (700 MHz)N78 (3500 MHz)Tip: Get your phone set up to connect to local networks before you vacation. It is preferable to be well-prepared before going abroad rather than to freak out and be unable to communicate. Choosing an international plan is a smart move while visiting Taiwan. While free WiFi may be available in many public locations, depending only on it has disadvantages like restricted availability, possible security issues, and the trouble of continuously looking for hotspots. International plans from your home network offer several key advantages: Preferential Rates: Make calls and send texts at lower costs than standard roaming charges. Cost-Effective Data Usage: Stay connected, utilize maps, social media, and more without worrying about paying astronomical costs for mobile data—rather than the usual data roaming. Retain Your Number: It will be simpler for loved ones and coworkers back home to contact you if you keep your current phone number. Flexible Packages: You may choose the plan that best suits your travel demands and budget by selecting various customizable options. For a more connected and budget-friendly trip to Taiwan, go with an international plan and avoid those pesky roaming fees. Visiting Taiwan and wondering how to stay connected? Fear not, as tourists have several convenient options to use cell phone in Taiwan, ensuring you're always just a click away from sharing your experiences or navigating your next adventure! An electronic substitute, an embedded SIM (eSIM) removes the need for a physical SIM card. Suitable for: Travelers with eSIM-compatible devices. Where to buy: Online platforms or directly from Taiwanese mobile operators. Pros: No physical SIM swap is required; activation is easy. Cons: Limited to compatible devices; not universally supported. You may obtain local prices using an international SIM card, a conventional but dependable alternative. Suitable for: Most unlocked smartphones. Where to buy: Airports, convenience stores, or online before your trip. Pros: Immediate access to local networks; various plans available. Cons: It requires a SIM swap and might not fit all phone models. Rent a pocket WiFi device for a hassle-free internet connection wherever you go. Suitable for: Those needing multiple device connectivity. Where to buy: Online reservation or at the airport upon arrival. Pros: Connect multiple devices; stable internet access. Cons: Carry an extra device; daily rental fees. Most likely possible. Your local network will function in Taiwan thanks to several domestic carriers' roaming arrangements with Taiwanese networks. However, roaming is the most expensive option for staying connected since the prices are typically high and may add up quickly. You can wind up with a hefty charge after your vacation if you don't closely monitor how much data and calls you make. Investigate other connection possibilities or ensure you know the roaming costs related to your plan to prevent an unpleasant surprise. Tip: To avoid a hefty bill, consider turning off mobile data and using local WiFi where possible, or opt for a more economical alternative like an eSIM, international SIM card, or Pocket WiFi. Gigago eSIM is a great way to remain connected to your phone while in Taiwan. This is one of the better solutions since you can buy and set up online. With several options, you may pick one that fits your stay and data demands. Which Taiwan eSIM plan should you choose for your trip? Gigago offers diverse packages tailored to different types of travelers. Whether you're a light user or need a hefty data allowance, there's a plan for you. For Taiwan, Gigago offers multiple data plan options, starting from 3 GB for 5 days with \$2.90 . What is great about Gigago's Taiwan eSIM is that its plans' costs are diversifying, varying between \$2.90 - \$68.50 . Thus, it does not matter how Internet users you are and how long your trip is in Taiwan, there is always an option for you with Gigago. Choose a plan that matches your trip length and internet consumption to maximize your Taiwan vacation. Enjoy Gigago eSIM's simplicity and adaptability. Choose your package now and remain connected across Taiwan. Get your Gigago eSIM immediately for a smooth trip! Check Compatibility: Ensure your phone supports Taiwan's GSM, 3G, and 4G/LTE bands for continuous service. Power Adapter: Taiwan utilizes 110V, 60Hz outlets. Bring a device adaptor. Use Messaging Apps: Popular applications in Taiwan, such as LINE or WhatsApp, can be used to communicate cheaply. Wi-Fi Access: Use free Wi-Fi in public places, cafes, and hotels to save on data usage. Emergency Numbers: Save local emergency numbers in your phone for quick access. Cultural Etiquette: Be mindful of local customs regarding phone usage in public spaces to respect cultural norms. If you have a local SIM card, an eSIM, or access to free Wi-Fi, you may use cell phone in Taiwan without paying a dime. An international plan is optional but helpful for short travels. A local SIM card or eSIM may be needed for longer stays or cost-effective use. Tourists may avoid roaming costs using an eSIM or local SIM card to access local network rates and data plans. Utilize secure Wi-Fi networks, avoid exchanging important information on public networks, and utilize VPN services to protect your mobile phone in Taiwan. In conclusion, with the correct knowledge, choosing how to use cell phone in Taiwan may be simple and hassle-free. Whether you use Wi-Fi, an eSIM, or a local SIM, keeping connected is simple and may improve your trip. Always choose the one that best suits your budget and vacation requirements. So go ahead, choose your option, and conveniently maintain connectivity while discovering Taiwan's beautiful island! The topic of SIM cards in Taiwan is a relatively straightforward one, but I still thought it was important to create a page about it. Many travelers have emailed me with questions—why not post all the answers on one central hub? Which is not to say I'll only be writing about SIM cards. I'll also provide other tips about staying connected in Taiwan, including the availability and quality of Wi-Fi in Taiwan. Moreover, I'll provide some insight on the Taiwan eSIM, a convenient option offered by companies like Holafly. Whether you plan to buy a Taiwan SIM card, or simply prefer to use your cellphone in Taiwan with a plan from your home country, you'll find the facts you need here. Why You Need a Taiwan SIM Card Setting aside for a moment the particulars of SIM cards in Taiwan, let's talk about why you're almost certainly going to need one. A big reason is the ability to do live translations, whether you're in a smaller city and town and need to communicate with someone who doesn't speak English, or you're at a local restaurant in Taipei and quickly want to translate Chinese text. There are other reasons, too. While Wi-Fi is prevalent in Taiwan (maybe more than anywhere else in the world) people traveling in Taiwan often find themselves far away from train stations and places of business—and, therefore, from WiFi routers. Whether you need to navigate to one destination or plot your course for the next, being constantly connected is essential. This is to say nothing of how often amazing places in Taiwan will make you want to post to social media! Options for Buying a Taiwan SIM Card Install a Taiwan eSIM in advance In Taiwan as is the case for most countries in the world, I think it's best to download an eSIM in advance. Whether you get a Taiwan eSIM from Holafly or from some other company, this allows you to ensure you're connected from the moment you land. This way, you don't have to wait until you're through customs and immigration to start planning out the details of your trip. Buy a Taiwan SIM card on arrival If you don't download an eSIM in advance, one cardinal rule of SIM cards in Taiwan I wouldn't recommend straying far from it this: Buy your SIM card at Taoyuan Airport (or whichever airport you land at) before continuing on your merry way. The reason for this is that SIM card counters at the airport offer exclusive, unlimited plans not available to customers in the city, where rates are much higher. Use your home country carrier Roaming in Taiwan is complicated, although I'm not sure whether this is officially because of the shaky diplomatic ground on which the country sits. In the past, many of US SIM cards have not even worked in Taiwan, though your mileage may vary. If you hope to avoid this option, I'd suggest contacting your home country's carrier in advance to verify pricing and availability. Avail a global cellphone plan I almost always download an eSIM in Taiwan, even though I use Google Fi, a cellphone plan with (advertised) global availability. The reason? I find that my Fi service is shaky in Taiwan, even under the best circumstances. Recently, in fact, I lost coverage for several days in the middle of Taipei, where reception was certainly not an issue. Even if you think you'll be connected in Taiwan, an eSIM (whether from Holafly or from another company) can be a reliable back-up option. Try to get by using Wi-Fi A Taiwan tourist SIM card is nice to have, but do you need to have one? Well, it depends on where in the country you plan to travel. If you'll mostly be in large cities like Taipei and Kaohsiung, Wi-Fi coverage is good enough that you may be able to get by. On the other hand, if you're in remote destinations like Lanyu and Luyao, a Taiwan SIM card is indispensable. Do Chinese SIM Cards Work in Taiwan? If you're flying to Taiwan from Beijing or Shanghai, it might be tempting to think you can use your China SIM upon landing, rather than buying a Taiwan SIM card for tourist. Unfortunately, since China and Taiwan have totally independent mobile infrastructure, a prepaid China SIM card will not work in Taiwan, though some contract plans (for example, if you reside in mainland China) might. This is yet another example of why downloading a Taiwan eSIM from Holafly is a preferable option to waiting until you land at Taoyuan or Songshan to buy a Taiwan SIM card, unlimited data or not. Even if you've set the correct expectation—namely, that Chinese SIM cards don't work in Taiwan—the reality can be disappointing as it sets in. Other FAQ About SIM Cards in Taiwan Which SIM card is best in Taiwan? The best SIM card in Taiwan, at least for short-term visitors, is the one you can buy most easily and at the cheapest price. In most cases this ends up being an eSIM, such as the one offered by Holafly. If you buy a physical Taiwan SIM, meanwhile, most networks in Taiwan offer similar coverage and speed, whether you use a big-name one like Chunghwa Telecom, or a smaller carrier like FarEasTone. How to get SIM card Taiwan? It's easy to get a SIM card in Taiwan. The first option is to download a Taiwan eSIM. However, you can also buy a physical Taiwan SIM. Specifically, after you exit the customs hall but before you leave Taoyuan Airport, visit various desks within the arrival area, many of which sell SIM cards from different Taiwan mobile companies. You'll need to provide your passport and some other information in order to purchase your SIM card. Taiwan SIM cards can be obtained for as little as NT\$600-700, depending on how long you need your card to be valid and which speed you choose. I'd recommend shopping around at the very desks within Taoyuan International Airport until you find the deal you want, assuming you aren't in a rush to get into the city. Alternatively, order a Taiwan eSIM in advance not only to lock in a rate, but to ensure you're connected from the moment you land. The Bottom Line I hope you've found my insights about your Taiwan SIM card enlightening—and I trust you've gotten answers to the questions that led you here in the first place. Although the majority of travelers would be best to download a Taiwan eSIM from Holafly in advance, there's also the option to purchase unlimited data SIM cards for the duration of their stay in Taiwan upon arrival at Taoyuan Airport. Regardless of how you end up staying connected in Taiwan, it's to your advantage to figure it out quickly. That way, you can get back to planning the exciting aspects of your Taiwan trip!