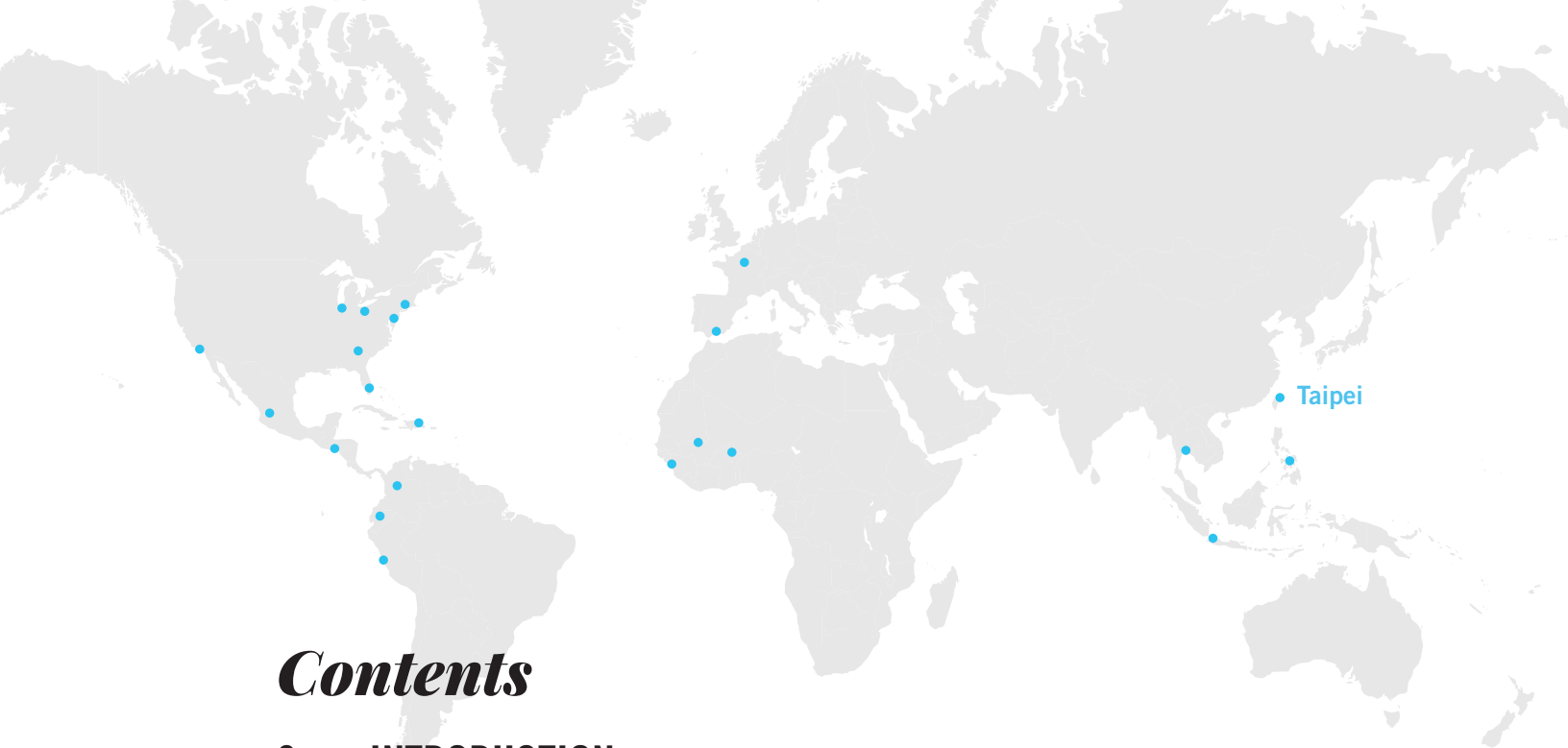




Taipei

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Our ministry is multifaceted, and there's always a lot going on here at Envision Taipei. We are passionate about seeing the world transformed for the Kingdom, and we believe that there are so many different ways God can use us for His glory! We long to help people smell, become, and spread the aroma of Christ in Taiwan and beyond. We do this through various forms of ministry—Business as Mission endeavors, church planting, and education-based initiatives. This vision can take many different forms, but here are a few of the things we do: First, Aroma Cafe and Aroma Village use business as a gateway into the community by creating a safe space for people to grow and work together; second, Aroma Church is a church plant to be a place of acceptance and love (the aroma of Christ) as we worship the one true God and are being transformed personally, communally, and missionally to be more like Him; third, we support our members who lead various ministries in the community and develop new, intentional relationships with people in the neighborhood; and finally, Envision Taipei hosts teams and interns to mobilize people like you to serve and grow in a cross-cultural ministry context.

We have lots happening, and we certainly sense what Jesus says in Luke 10:2: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” We need people like you who sense the call of God to come and be the aroma of Christ in this place with us. Teams and interns who come to serve with us meaningfully contribute to Kingdom impact and leave Taiwan changed.



MEET THE TEAM

Chris & Jamie O'Dell have been serving in Taiwan as Envision site coordinators since 2008. Jamie came first by accident. She was supposed to go to Turkey on a short-term missions trip, but the trip was switched to Taiwan. She led the team and went back three summers while she was at Crown College. Chris was on one of those teams. He was supposed to go to Thailand, but the leaders felt God was calling him to Taiwan, and he responded. Chris and Jamie started dating and got married one year later.

While praying for direction after graduating, they received a phone call from Envision inviting them to move to Taiwan two weeks after they graduated. They accepted, and have provided expert leadership and vision to the site ever since! They now serve with their three sons, Enoch, Noah, and Judah.



General Information

TEAM COSTS

The general cost is \$995 per individual on the ground in the country for up to 10 days. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, laundry, in-city transportation, and travel insurance. It is an additional \$50 per individual for every extra day. Airfare is excluded.

INTERN COSTS

The general cost is \$1,450 per intern on the ground in the country for one month. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, laundry, in-city transportation, and travel insurance. Airfare is excluded.

In addition to the monthly cost, there will be a one-time fee of \$455 for international travel insurance if your internship is over six months. For internships under 180 days, the international travel insurance will be a one-time fee of \$53.

HOUSING & FOOD

You will stay in a house or hostel in the area. There will be Wi-Fi, A/C, bedding, and basic necessities available to you. Be sure to bring your own toiletries, though you can purchase almost anything you may have forgotten if necessary. You are welcome to bring your own blanket and/or pillow if you'd like.

Most of your meals will be eaten out, but you can pick up some essentials at the supermarket if you'd prefer (cereal, milk, etc.). However, eating out in Taiwan is very cheap, so it isn't uncommon for people to eat out for all meals. Please let us know if you have serious dietary restrictions (diabetes, gluten-free, peanut, etc.) so we can advise accordingly.

Taiwanese people are very proud of their food. Try Taiwanese foods that are offered to you, and be polite even when you dislike them.



AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

When you are on the plane, you will need to fill out a landing form. Write the following:

1. Contact person in Taiwan:

Chris O'Dell
7F No. 36 Guanqian Rd.
Zhongzheng, Taipei
Phone: 0983-055-609

2. Purpose: Travel/visit/tourism

3. Your address in Taiwan:

See landing info sent to your team leader.

Once you land, you will go through immigration, baggage claim, and customs, and then you will come out into the arrival hall. In the arrival hall, turn right. Someone from our team will be there waiting. We will likely take an express train or bus from the airport into the city. If your team would prefer to be picked up by taxis, please let us know as soon as possible. However, please know this will cost extra, and your budget will be affected.

VISAS

If you are an American citizen, you do not apply for a visa before you come to Taiwan. If you are not an American citizen, search the requirements for entry into Taiwan from your country of origin or ask us for help.

Short-term teams and interns do not need visas for stays under 90 days. Extended internships may require visa runs or getting a working or student visa.

If you intend to teach English during your internship, you will need to get a visitor's visa after you have landed and have a work permit from your employer. If you will be teaching English as a long-term intern to supplement your income, you will need to apply for an FBI background check **before** arriving in Taiwan. Teams and interns will need a valid passport that won't expire for at least six months or the duration of your internship.

Regarding COVID-19: Taiwan shut its borders to tourists in March 2020, and as of early 2022, has yet to allow tourists to enter. Special entry permits are required and are only available to long-term residents at present. Please reach out to our team for more information about visas potentially available to you.

MONEY

The banks in Taiwan are not open late or on weekends, so we can help you exchange money at the airport. The rate is quite fair, and it's much easier and quicker to do it at the airport. If you're not sure how much spending money to take out, just exchange \$50 or so, and you can get more out later if needed. We have all your transportation, housing, and food costs covered, so this money will be for you to spend.

Taiwan is primarily a cash culture, so don't expect to be able to use credit cards in stores. Always have the money you need in cash. Taipei is quite safe, and we have had virtually zero cases of robbery, but carry your money wisely and don't carry too much at once.

COMMUNICATIONS

Wi-Fi is available in the Aroma coffee shop and at your host home or hostel (for both teams and interns).

If you would like to use your cell phone, we recommend bringing an unlocked phone and purchasing a SIM card while you are here—we recommend this for team leaders and for interns.

If you would like to use a laptop while you are here, it will be your responsibility to bring one with you.

HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

There are no special vaccinations needed for your time in Taipei.



Packing List

- Casual, comfortable clothes that will keep you cool. It can get very hot in Taiwan, especially May-August. Sleeveless shirts and tanks are fine, but prioritize modesty.
- Pajamas (you'll be sharing a room with teammates)
- Pants and shorts. Some Taiwanese don't wear shorts in the city often, but you won't be offensive if you do!
- Our church is very casual, so you can wear jeans.
- Swimsuit
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Rain gear
- Toiletries
- Medications/prescriptions (Ibuprofen, Dayquil, Nyquil, etc.)
- Band-aids
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine products
- Shower towel (shampoo/conditioner and soap will be provided)
- Two forms of ID (passport and license)
- Camera
- Cell phone
- Sunscreen
- Headphones
- Spending money
- Water bottle
- Toilet paper/tissues
- Small, nonperishable snacks
- Bible, journal, pen
- Devotional books or music for quiet times
- Small gifts (possibly American-themed) to give to good friends you meet
- Other ministry items if you are hosting a special event (sewing materials, teaching materials, children's ministry, sports ministry)

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

Taiwanese often wear pants in the heat of the summer and rarely wear flip flops in the city. Young people do wear shorts and flip flops, and you can certainly wear these most of the time if you like. Prayerfully consider how what you wear will affect others, and don't wear things that may be an issue. Tank tops are okay in many settings, but be aware and considerate. Our ministry has many young Taiwanese new believers and pre-believers who have no concept of modesty, so set a good example for them in modesty and purity.





Ministry

At the Envision Taipei site, our main focus for ministry is evangelism through community outreach, church planting, and Business as Mission.

Through our coffee shop business start-up, The Aroma, we strive to provide a welcoming, faith-based, international environment to every patron who walks through our doors. We seek to accomplish this goal through everything from our diverse blend of Asian-American menu options to our weekly community English conversation program called “Coffee Talk.” The Business as Mission model is one that seeks to take God with you as you go through your workday, promoting a working atmosphere where stopping to pray and invite God into the staff meeting, the decision on a new menu item, or the conversation with a customer in need isn’t the exception, but the norm!

Our church plant, also called The Aroma, was started in 2012 and partners and shares the space with the coffee shop. Through regular local community outreach, small groups, church activities, and our weekly Sunday evening services, we strive to offer a place for people to come in, to be challenged, to be changed, and to belong!

With the annual support of teams and interns who come to partner with us in ministry through Envision, we’re continuing to see God do amazing, life-changing transformation in the hearts of our new Taiwanese friends and our entire Aroma community. If you’re interested in how you can use your passion for business, language, or church planting in a cross-cultural urban setting, the Envision Taipei site might be the perfect fit for your internship or short-term team experience!

Schedule

TEAMS

A day in the life of a team here looks something like this:

8–9:30 a.m.	Personal devotions, get ready, eat breakfast
9:30–10 a.m.	Travel to Aroma
10–11 a.m.	Morning team worship, prayer, devotion
11–12:30 p.m.	Aroma training (culture, language, ministry, etc.)
12:30–2 p.m.	Lunch out in Ximen
2–3 p.m.	Prep for afternoon outreach
3–5 p.m.	Outreach in Ximen
5–8 p.m.	Dinner out in Ximen
8–10 p.m.	Evening outreach or event
10 p.m.	Travel home, team debrief, rest

INTERNS

Teaching Track:

8 a.m.	Get ready for the day, spend time with Jesus
10 a.m.	Ministry, teaching prep, or Chinese class
12 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m.	Head to class
1:30–6:30 p.m.	Teach English
7:30 p.m.	Arrive to Ximen and eat dinner
8:30 p.m.	Aroma event (small group, outreach, Coffee Talk, etc.)
10 p.m.	Head home

Full-time Aroma Track:

8 a.m.	Get ready for the day, spend time with Jesus
10 a.m.	Worship and prayer at Aroma
11 a.m.	Study Chinese or work on Aroma projects
12 p.m.	Grab lunch
1 p.m.	Chinese class or language exchange
3–6 p.m.	Aroma projects
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
8:30 p.m.	Aroma event (small group, outreach, Coffee Talk, etc.)
10 p.m.	Head home



Cultural Sensitivity

Taiwanese people are kind to travelers and great at hosting. They may go out of their way to help you. If they are offering a lot (i.e. not just helping you find a place, but going 30 minutes out of their way to take you there), tell them a couple times that they don't need to do that. If they keep pushing, then it's okay to receive their sacrificial help.

They are very hardworking and often work 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day or from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but they will stay countless hours overtime without pay. Some are resentful, but many consider this part of life and that if they don't do it, the boss will find someone else who will.

They highly respect their elders and superiors and often feel obligated to follow their teaching or advice. Be careful about directly disagreeing with people who are your "superiors" or elders.

Taiwanese people avoid conflict and would rather go with the flow than fight an issue. Because of this, sometimes they will say "yes" to you so that you don't feel offended but will never show up or follow through on what they previously agreed to—they just didn't know how to tell you.

Relationships are highly valued and are powerful tools in Taiwanese culture. Regard them with genuine love and interest and not just as a ministry task or they will see right through it. As you invest, you will get amazing opportunities to speak into their lives.

Taiwanese people don't often have visitors over to their home. If you are invited, it's a big honor. Do it! Bring a gift such as fruit or some kind of treat. Take your shoes off and wear their house slippers. Taiwanese people do not wear shoes in the house. Be careful about praising their things too much, or they may feel obligated to offer them to you.

Taiwanese people are very superstitious. Be aware of these things that may be considered culturally unacceptable: Do not stand your chopsticks in your dish—it looks like incense offered at the temple; don't talk about death directly; don't whistle or point at the moon or cemeteries. Taiwanese people are curious to learn about foreigners and about Christianity. Do share what you're doing in Taiwan and that you're a Christian. Ask them questions about their faith and what they know about Jesus. Be respectful in religious conversations.



Contact Info



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