# 02. All Aboard! Exploring Taiwan by Train

Did you know that one of the best ways to explore Taiwan is by train? I can ride different trains and explore Taiwan on the weekends!

There are about 1,065 kilometers of train tracks around Taiwan. These tracks connect big cities and small towns. I can hop on a train in Changhua* County and go on an adventure! If I go north, I can pass through Taichung*, Hsinchu*, and Taipei*, all the way to Keelung*. If I ride south, I can pass through, Tainan*, Kaohsiung*, and Pingtung*. If I want to make a full loop around Taiwan, I can ride along the east coast through Taitung*, Hualien*, and Yilan*. Yes, it's possible to ride the entire way around Taiwan by train!

Some train tracks go near the ocean. When you ride from Pingtung to Taitung, you can see the blue sea outside your window. Taiwan also has many tall mountains with trees. If you like forests, you can ride the Forest Railway in Alishan**. This train is very old. It goes through tunnels and over wooden bridges. The mountain views are amazing!

Taiwan also has a super-fast train called the THSR, or Taiwan High Speed Rail. The THSR can go up to 300 kilometers per hour! That means you can travel from Taipei to Kaohsiung in about 90 minutes. Whoosh! I feel like I'm flying on the ground!

What if you need to get around a city? You can ride the MRT. The MRT runs in cities like Taipei, Kaohsiung, Taoyuan*, New Taipei and Taichung. MRT stands for "Mass Rapid Transit." That means it can move a lot of people quickly around the city. It is a great way to get around and explore the city!

A long time ago, trains in Taiwan carried sugarcane and wood. Today, they still carry many things. Trains can move people and stuff!

The trains in Taiwan are fast, fun, and full of surprises! I can see the blue ocean, the tall mountains, and the busy cities views. Trains help me go on great adventures. I can't wait for the next weekend!

* Changhua = 彰化, Taichung = 台中, Hsinchu = 新竹 , Taipei = 台北, Keelung = 基隆, Tainan = 台南, Kaohsiung = 高雄, Pingtung = 屏東, Taitung = 台東, Hualien = 花蓮,　Yilan = 宜蘭, Taoyuan=桃園

** Alishan = 阿里山