

East China Sea Tour

Island Hopping and Tern-watching Cruise

5/19 5/26 6/02 6/09
Fri. Fri. Fri. Fri.

Features :

Ecological Guided Tour, Island-hopping and Tern-watching, Cruising, Islands Boarding, Professional Guided Tour

NT\$ 500 / per person
includes 1 meal, snacks, and insurance.

Each tour is limited to 40 people at most. The registration will be closed after it's fully booked.

Sign-up Link for East China Sea Tour



South China Sea Tour

Island Hopping and Tern-watching Cruise

6/16 6/23 6/30 7/07
Fri. Fri. Fri. Fri.

Features :

Ecological Guided Tour, Island-hopping and Tern-watching, Cruising, Islands Boarding, Professional Guided Tour

NT\$ 650 / per person
includes 1 meal, snacks, and insurance.

Each tour is limited to 40 people at most. The registration will be closed after it's fully booked.

Sign-up Link for South China Sea Tour



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East China Sea Tour

Island Hopping and Tern-watching Cruise

Spring : Season of Tern

- 08:00 - 08:30 Meet-up **Penghu Visitor Center**
- 08:30 - 10:00 Introduction on tern's ecosystem and the cruise trip **Penghu Visitor Center**
- 10:00 - 10:30 Departure for **Qitou** **Qitou Visitor Center**
- 10:45 - 12:30 Cruising on the East China Sea for tern-watching and landscapes **Yuanbei Islet, Jishan Islet, Dinggou Islet**
- 12:50 - 14:00 Lunch on **Bird Islet**
- 14:00 - 15:00 Village tour and sight-seeing on **Bird Islet**
- 15:15 - 16:00 Sight-seeing on Taiwan's Maldives (Landing) **Pengpeng Beach**
- 16:00 - 16:20 Return to **Qitou** **Qitou Visitor Center**
- 16:30 - 17:00 Back to **Magong City** End of Tour

• The boat owner will make moderate adjustments depending on the tide conditions of the day.



Jishan Islet



Pengpeng Beach



Dinggou Islet



Yuanbei Islet



South China Sea Tour

Island Hopping and Tern-watching Cruise

Spring : Season of Tern

- 07:40 - 08:00 Meet-up **South Sea Visitor Center**
- 08:00 - 09:00 Sight-seeing around **Tongpan Islet** (Cruising)
- 09:00 - 11:00 Sight-seeing on **Flower Islet** (Landing)
- 11:00 - 12:30 Tern-watching around **Cat Islet** (Cruising)
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch **Dongyuping Islet**
- 13:30 - 15:00 Sight-seeing in **Dongyuping Islet**
- 15:00 - 16:00 Tern-watching around **Toujin Islet** and **South Tiezhen Islet** (Cruising)
- 16:00 - 16:30 Sight-seeing around **Hujing Islet** (Cruising)
- 16:30 Back to **Magong City** End of Tour

• The boat owner will make moderate adjustments depending on the tide conditions of the day.



Tongpan Islet



Toujin Islet



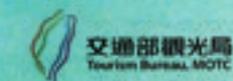
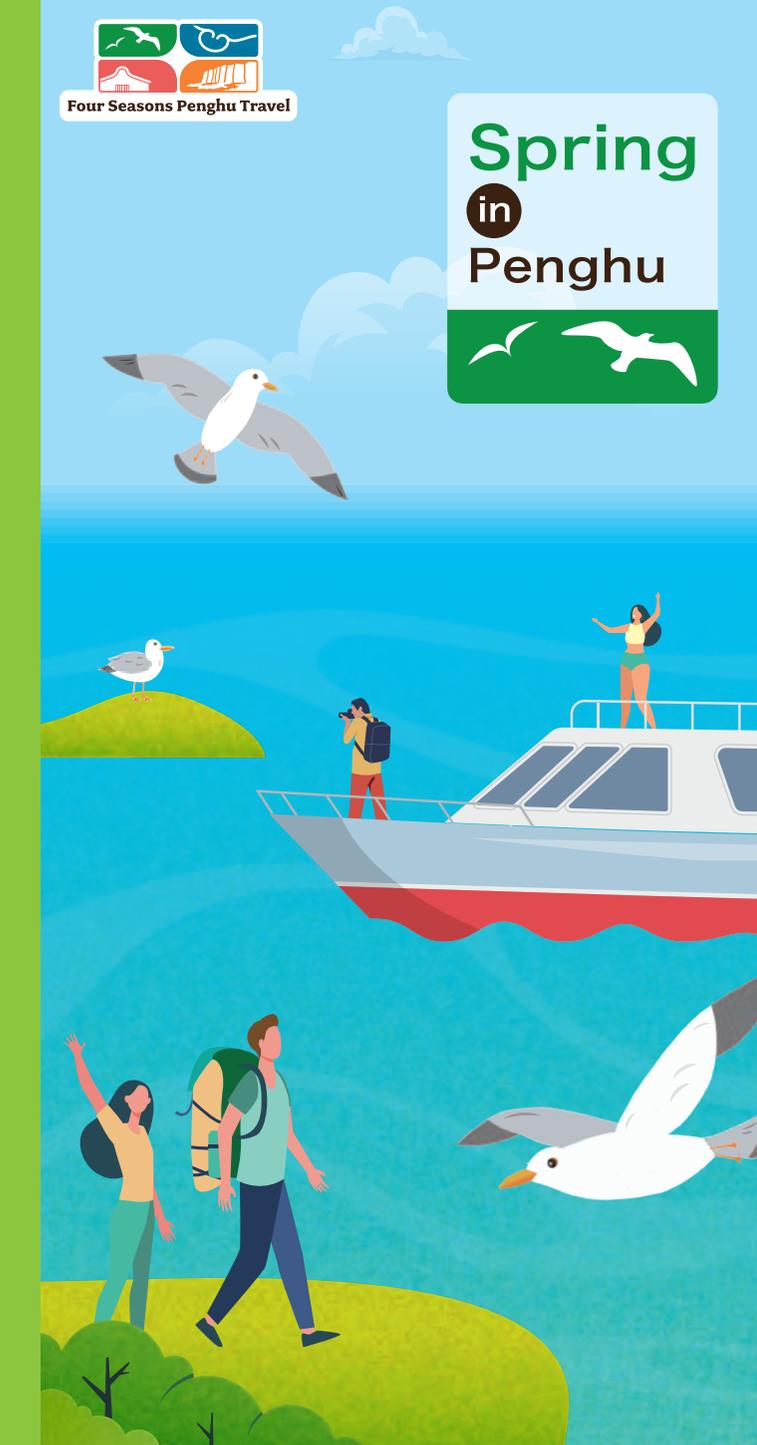
Flower Islet



Dongyuping Islet



Spring in Penghu



廣告



Little Tern

Scientific name : *Sternula albifrons*

Observation month : March to August

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 22 to 28 cm,
width about 47 to 55 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male little terns are the same. Their beak is mostly yellow, and the end of the beak is a bit black. Their feet are orange, and the forehead is white. The body color from the top of their head to the back of the neck and over their eye line is black. Their forehead and the front of the neck and their chest are white. Their back is mostly gray. The non-breeding plumage is not so different from their breeding plumage. But during the breeding period, their beaks and feet turn blackish brown. The chicks' plumage resembles non-breeding plumage, with brown spots from the top of the head to the back of the neck, and also the back area.

Ecological habits : They feed mainly on fish and crustaceans, and occasionally eat insects; Most little terns in Penghu breed on sandbars around the North Sea, with the breeding period from April to July. It happens occasionally starting from March till mid-April. Only until one to two days before the eggs are laid that little terns appear around the breeding area. Nesting on sandy beaches, using small coral pieces and shell fragments on the beach to form a nest, or sometimes directly sitting in a shallow hole to lay eggs. Each nest will have one to three eggs, and males and females take turns to incubate eggs and brooding. The incubation period is about three weeks. In recent years, Jibei Islet in the North Sea has been its largest collective breeding ground, about 100 to 200 little terns will be there during the period. There are also small groups breeding in Pengpeng Beach, Xianjiao Islet, and Qingluo Spit.



Brown Noddy

Scientific name : *Anous stolidus*

Observation month : March to October

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 38 to 45 cm,
width about 75 to 86cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male brown noddy are the same. Their bodies are mostly dark brown. The forehead to the front part of the head is grayish-white, and the top of the head to the back of the head is light purple gray, with little white spots under their eyes. When they are flying, the middle of the feathers on their tails would curve in.

Ecological habits : They arrive at Cat Islet at the end of March, and usually start laying eggs in mid-April. Most nests are made up with a small amount of dry grass. Some lay eggs directly in the shallow pod on a steep cliff. One egg per nest, females and males build nests together, take turns to incubate eggs, brood, and feed the chicks by rumination. After 35 days of hatching, the white fluffy chicks break their shells, and after a week the fluff begins to wear off. After 40 to 50 days of brooding, the young will be able to fly. They are summer migratory birds. They are often seen in some areas of Penghu. Cat Islet is the largest habitat and breeding ground. You can find them breeding in Tiezhen Islet and Toujin Islet as well, but the number is quite small. A few have been found occasionally around the North Sea, but no breeding behavior has been recorded there yet.



Roseate Tern

Scientific name : *Sterna dougallii*

Observation month : April to September

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 33 to 43 cm,
width about 72 to 80 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male roseate terns are the same. The breeding feathers are vermilion, and at the end of the mouth is black. From the top of the head to the back of the neck is black, and the back area is light gray. From the head to the neck, and below the chest is white. But at the beginning of the breeding period, the chest is slightly rose pink. When perched, the tail feathers are longer than the wing feathers. The non-breeding plumage roughly resembles the breeding feather, but the beak is black, and the feet are dark brown. And the forehead and the top of their heads are white with some black stripes. The chicks' forehead and head are black, with some white stripes. The back is gray with brown spots.

Ecological habits : The first batch arrives in Penghu at the end of April every year and begins to lay eggs in late May. Without obvious nesting behavior, they breed on the grassland on the slopes around the island, often next to shady rocks or on the beach. Each nest has one to two eggs, and the incubation period is about 23 days. The Northeastern China Sea has Jishan Islet and Baisha Islet as the most common breeding grounds, while in the South China Sea, they mainly breed on Houdaizi Islet. According to the recovery data from recent releases, roseate terns that come to Penghu to breed will fly south to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia for the winter.



Bridled Tern

Scientific name : *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Observation month : April to September

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 35 to 38 cm,
width about 76-81 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male bridled terns are the same. During the breeding period, their feathers turn into breeding plumage. Their feet are black. The body color from the top of the head to the back of the head is black. The color of the forehead is white and extends all the way above their eyes over the eye lines. The back is dark brown. During the non-breeding period, the backside will turn grayish brown with white margin.

Ecological habits : They usually arrive at Cat Islet around mid-April. And they arrive at the other islands around late April to early May. They leave Penghu in mid to late September. The bridled terns' nests are usually found in places that are hard to discover, and they prefer to lay eggs in cloaked places under the rocks, crevices or in the bushes. One egg per nest and the incubation period is 31 to 32 days. Females and males take turns to incubate, brood and feed their chicks by rumination. There are more bridled terns in Toujin Islet, Houdaizi Islet, and Cat Islet in the South China Sea. Cat Islet is the largest breeding ground in Penghu, with more than 6000 bridled terns recorded in recent years. In the North Sea, they mainly breed on Tiezhen Islet. In the Northeastern Sea, they breed on Dinggou Islet.



Black-naped Tern

Scientific name : *Sterna sumatrana*

Observation month : April to October

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 30 to 32 cm,
width about 64 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male black-naped terns are the same. The whole body is mostly white. The mouth and feet are black, and the color extends from over their eyes to the back of the head. There is no difference between winter and summer feathers. The chicks look just like the adults, but have paler black on their heads and black-brown spots on their backs.

Ecological habits : They are common summer migratory birds in Penghu, but the groups are small. It is widely seen on the rocks and beaches of uninhabited islands in the south of Penghu and the North Sea. The first batch arrives in Penghu around the end of April and leaves at the end of August, but a few will stay until early October. Eggs are laid in mid to late May, usually laid on rocks and beaches, with one to two eggs per nest. The incubation period is about 23 days. They are fierce by nature. When they are invaded by other species, they would first swoop with shouts, then throw feces, and finally even hit invaders with their feet or pecked with their beak. In recent years, Pengpeng Beach in the Northeastern China Sea has been its largest breeding ground, with a population of about 100 terns.



Great Crested Tern

Scientific name : *Sterna bergii*

Observation month : April to September

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 43-53cm,
width about 125 to 130 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male great crested terns are the same. The breeding feathers have yellow beaks and black feet. Black heads and the color extends to the back of their necks. And they have a feather crest on the back of their head. The forehead, head, and the front body is roughly white. The back is gray. The non-breeding plumage roughly resembles the breeding feathers, but the top of the head turns white with thin black stripes.

Ecological habits : They feed around fishing ports more often than the other tern species. Nesting on grassy dry land and sandy beaches, the nesting environment is similar to red terns' nesting place, but usually located on higher ground and flat places on the island. With one egg per nest, and the simultaneous laying of eggs is the most obvious among the terns that breed in Penghu. Males and females take turns incubating their eggs and brooding for about 29 to 30 days. They are common summer migratory birds in Penghu, which start to appear in Penghu around March, and usually appear on floating nets in the inland sea of Penghu when they first arrive. They are cautious by nature. If they are disturbed before laying eggs, they will abandon the breeding ground collectively. So, for them, the time of laying eggs is different every year, usually around mid-May. In recent years, there is a trend that shows the breeding time has moved earlier. The population of the Great Crested Terns on the Jishan Islet is the most stable group, about 2500 to 3000 terns that come to breed each year.



Chinese Crested Tern

Scientific name : *Thalasseus bernsteini*

Body size and wingspan :

Length about 38 to 43 cm,
width about 115 to 120 cm.

Biological characteristics : The body of female and male Chinese crested terns are the same. The breeding feathers have yellow beaks and black feet. From the top of the head to the back of the neck is black. And they have a feather crest on the back of their head. From the head to the neck and to the front body is roughly white, and the back is light gray. During the non-breeding period, the feathers roughly resemble their breeding period feathers, but the top of the head turns white with thin black stripes.



Scan to read the variety table of tern.



Credit : Zhen Qian Xun



Tern Season Information



Official Fan Page of Penghu National Scenic Area Administration Court