



Modern Cruise Infrastructure

Close to downtown and public transportation hubs, the Port of Keelung is Taiwan's ideal homeport. Located on the island's north shore, it is already Taiwan's most popular port, and it is soon to have two new, state-of-the-art cruise terminals.

Extensive renovations to the Keelung Port E2 Terminal are expected to be completed by the third quarter of this year. The terminal sits alongside 558 meters of wharf with 9.5 meters of depth. New features include a stunning glass corridor connecting the check-in hall and the waiting room. A scenic rooftop garden will allow passengers and members of the public to watch the cruise ships come and go.

The W2 Terminal is scheduled for completion in March of 2022. With a 554-meter-long wharf and depths up to 10 meters, the new terminal will feature shops with an emphasis on cultural and creative local products.

A big part of Taiwan's cruise strategy is capitalizing on its diver-

sity by marketing itself as a series of destinations, not just one port.

The island's largest commercial port is in the southeastern city of Kaohsiung. With excellent proximity to the city's downtown, the port attracts guests interested in the area's rich tourist attractions. A new 17-floor (15 floors and two underground floors) terminal under construction will be an architectural marvel, with curved glass meant to imitate waves. The terminal is scheduled to open in 2022.

Local Taiwan ports of call easily reached from Keelung and Kaohsiung include the 90-island archipelago of Penghu, where peaceful azure waters lap up on white sand beaches.

Penghu has developed a thriving tourism along with the Kinmen and Matsu Islands. Manmade attractions include water sports, temples, museums, and historic sites. Nature provides geologic wonders like the great basalt columns and the massive Blue Cave or Blue Hole, a spectacular rectangular incision in a basalt sea



New infrastructure is everywhere. Above, a new terminal is being built in Keelung while another new terminal is pictured here under construction in Kaohsiung.



wall within a national park on the southern Xiji Island.

The islands are home to dolphins and whales, migratory birds, vast coral reef systems, and endangered green sea turtles.

With a COVID-19 case spike in Taiwan in May, operations were paused on the Explorer Dream, which had been in service since last July.

The Taiwan International Ports Corporation will follow central policies strictly to keep the country's ports safe.

"We are convinced of conquering this uncertain and challenging time," said a port spokesperson. ■