

Destination Highlights

Taroko National Park

Website: <http://www.taroko.gov.tw/English/?mm=5&sm=1&page=1#up>

When Taroko National Park was established on November 28, 1986, it was of special significance for the environmental protection movement in Taiwan: it showed that both the public and the government agencies had realized that against the background of the nation's four decades of extraordinary economic success, serious damage was being done to its natural resources. According to the National Park Act of the Republic of China (passed in 1972), parks are established to protect the natural scenery, historic relics and wildlife; to conserve natural resources; and to facilitate scientific research and promote environmental education.

Changchun Shrine (Eternal Spring Shrine)

Drive from the west exit of the Changchun Tunnel of the Central Cross-Island Highway, then turn south(left) and go along the old Central Cross-Island Highway to the car park next to Liwu River, and you can see the Changchun (Eternal Spring) Shrine which commemorates the 212 personnel (military veterans) who died during the construction of the Central Cross-Island Highway



(1956~1960). Spring water adjacent by the Changchun Shrine flows all year round, and the Highway Bureau named it after "Chanchun Falls." It is now scenic spot with special significance on the Central Cross-Island Highway.

In 1987 the cliff by the rivers collapse and destroyed the pavilion next to the

Changchun Shine. After 10 years it was restored and is now open to the public again. that the back of the Changchun Shine there are stairs leading to Kuanyin Cave, Taroko Tower, Bell Tower (the highest point), and across a suspension bridge to Changuang Temple (Zen temple) . The river valley next to the Changuang Temple has a bottle gourd shape, and it is named thereafter as Bottle GourdValley (Hu-lu Gu). The trail is a 1.3km/085mile leisurely walk will take 50 minutes to an hour. The trail is quite steep and visitors should stay off the trail on rainy days.

Yanzihkou (Swallow Grott)



Following the Central Cross-Island Highway, at Yanzihkou (Swallow Grotto) the rock cliffs of the Liwu River gorge seem to reach to heaven while the river runs its swiftest and the distance between the gorge walls so narrow that they almost seem to touch each other.



Along the Yanzihkou (Swallow Grotto) trail which runs about a half kilometer starting from the entrance to Swallow Grotto to the Jinheng Bridge, you can enjoy the sights of the Liwu River from nearly straight above the water, the potholes on the cliff faces, the springs sprinkled along the lower parts of the walls, as well as the famous rock formation "Chieftain's profile rock".

As of early 2005 the Yanzihkou (Swallow Grotto) Trail was separated from the highway by a simple concrete divider. The road was narrow, resulting in frequent congestion in the area. Consequently, the Park Administration set about building a two-lane tunnel for vehicular traffic to let walkers enjoy the

sights of this spectacular part of the gorge uninterrupted by cars and buses. There are two Swallow Grotto (Yanzihkou) tunnels, linked by Ludan Bridge- were completed in June 1, 2007. West-east vehicular traffic must use the tunnels. The old highway is now a pedestrian path and is also open to vehicular traffic going east only that must proceed slowly.

Liyu Lake

Website: <http://www.erv-nsa.gov.tw/user/Article.aspx?Lang=2&SNo=03000108>

Liyu Lake is located at the foot of Liyu Mountain, in Shoufeng Township's Chihnan Village. It is only 18 kilometers from Hualien City, and is one of the older scenic areas. Liyu Lake is about 1.6 kilometers in length, and 930 meters in width, making it the largest inland lake in Hualien County. The original inhabitants called it "Dapo", while the Ami called it "Banao". It was later named Liyu Lake (Carp Lake) after Liyu Mountain, located by its east banks.



According to geological research, a river known as the Gutonglan River used to be located between Liyu Mountain, Tongmen Mountain and Mugua Mountain. The nearby Wenlan River, Lao River, Baibao River and Pinghe River were all branches of the Gutonglan River, and the current location of Liyu Lake is where a wider part of the Gutonglan River was situated. Due to erosion, a river-capture phenomenon occurred between the Pinghe and Baibao Rivers, and between the Lao and Baibao Rivers. This caused the Lao River to change direction, and the waters of the Gutonglan River decreased. In addition, due to the crumbling of the alluvial fan of the Wenlan River to the north of Liyu Lake which resulted in silt deposits, Liyu Lake's outlet was blocked. Also, the gushing of the Lao River's subterranean drainage has helped to create this barrier lake that has become the present Liyu Lake.

Due to an abundance of natural travel and recreation resources, Liyu Lake was developed into a well-known scenic spot early on. After the East Rift Valley National Scenic Area was established, more planning followed, allowing Liyu Lake to become a site of many varied recreational activities, such as light-boat sailing, the construction of a single-lane road to encircle the lake, and footpaths for strolling along the shore. Liyu Lake has a visitor center where visitors can find detailed information on all aspects of traveling. Liyu Lake's shore recreation area has developed a variety of water activities and recreation facilities which are suitable for the whole family. The bicycle path that circles the lake is around 5 kilometers long, and allows cyclists to experience the pleasant natural beauty of the lakes and

mountains from their vehicles. The 601 meter-tall Liyu Mountain has many forest footpaths which allow hikers to enjoy the birds, flowers, and scenery, making it one of the best exercise choices. If you are not in a hurry to leave Liyu Lake, there is a fully equipped, up-to-date campsite in beautiful surroundings, just several hundred meters south of the lake. The visitors can experience outdoor recreation with the sky for a ceiling, and the ground for a bed.

On the opposite side of the road separating the road from Liyu Lake is a restaurant and store. The restaurant is named the "Live Jumping Shrimp", after the shrimp from Liyu Lake, which are used to make the most popular meal in the area.

Cisingtan Scenic Area

Website: <http://tour-hualien.hl.gov.tw/en/case-main.jsp?subject=2&Oid=163>

Cisingtan Scenic Area is the only county-level scenic spot in Hualien County which is connected to Taroko Gorge, East coastline and East Rift Valley. Hualien government has turned Chishingtarn its best recreational spot in Hualien throughout the years. It is said that Chishingtarn was a large area with sparse



lakes which was filled up due to constructions. Chishingtarn nowadays refer to the area north to Mei Lun industrial park and Hualien airport which contains significant natural scenic views. Chishingtarn overlooks Cingshui Cliffs and the night view of Hsin Cheng and Chung De villages. A 21-kilometer bike route stretches from Nan Bing Park in Hualien city through Hualien harbor, 48 highland and Chi-shing-tarn. In this recreational area, Hualien government has also built a stone sculpture park, star-watch square, children's recreational facilities and other recreational facilities. A plant park was built the windbreak forest which contains a diverse variety of animals and plants and interpretation of the ocean ecology is available around the fishery field.

For more Scenic Spots within Hualien, please feel free to visit below websites for detailed information:

<http://tour-hualien.hl.gov.tw/en/index.jsp>

<http://www.erv-nsa.gov.tw/user/main.aspx?Lang=2&SNo=>