

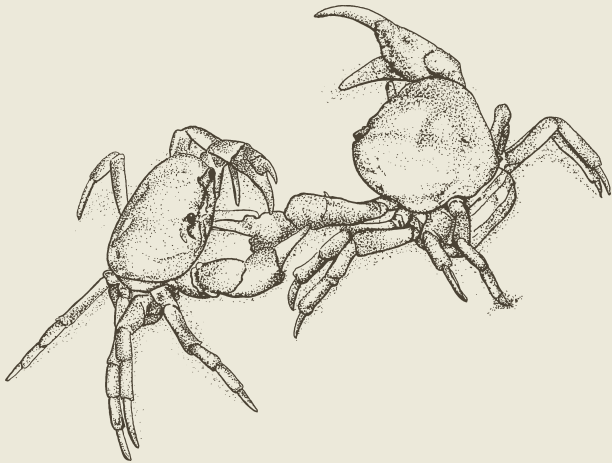
National

Nature

Park



國家自然公園



National Nature Park

Shoushan National Nature Park, Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park, Taichung Metropolitan Park



內政部 國家自然公園管理處
國家公園署
National Nature Park Headquarters, National Park Service, Ministry of the Interior

Shoushan National Nature Park Location Map

Legend

- Trailhead
- Visitor Center
- Parking Lot
- Restroom
- High-speed Rail Station
- MRT Station
- Light Rail Station
- TRA Station
- National Highway
- Provincial Highway
- YouBike
- Ferry Station
- Shoushan National Natural Park Range
- Main Road
- Shoushan Fortress Military Control Zone Border
- Mountain Trail
- Railway



Scale

0 0.5 1Km

Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park Location Map



Taichung Metropolitan Park Location Map





National Nature Park





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View from Cihoushan to Shoushan



Background

In 1972, Taiwan enacted the *National Park Law* to protect the nation's unique natural landscapes, wildlife, and historical sites, while also providing opportunities for recreation and research to the public. Subsequently, nine national parks were established: Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Shei-Pa, Kinmen, Dongsha Atoll, Taijiang, and the South Penghu Marine National Park. However, many areas with national park-level resources, though smaller in scale, still required better management. After amendments to the *National Park Law*, the first National Nature Park, Shoushan, was established in 2011.

The National Nature Park Headquarters currently oversees the Shoushan National Nature Park, Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park, and Taichung Metropolitan Park, implementing hands-on education, conservation, recreation, engineering, and planning initiatives.

From Shoushan National Nature Park to the National Nature Park Headquarters

Nestled in the southwest corner of Taiwan's bustling harbor city lies a lush green area: Shoushan, also known as Takao Mountain, Dagu Mountain, Wanshou Mountain, and Chaishan. During the Japanese colonial period, Shoushan, Banpingshan, and Cihoushan were designated as protection forest. After World War II, they became part of a restricted military area under martial law until 1987. These restrictions helped preserve Shoushan's rich natural ecology, unique landscapes, and cultural history.

In the 1990s, with global conservation trends taking hold, local groups began to raise concerns that the lack of management in the area threatened Shoushan's natural environment. They initiated a series of conservation efforts, including promoting environmental education, collaborating with government bodies to curb inappropriate land use, and, in 1997, lobbying for the establishment of Chaishan Nature Park. After the park's establishment, they continued to advocate for sustainable practices on Chaishan.

In 2009, the Ministry of the Interior approved the Feasibility Study and Boundary Redistribution for Shoushan National Nature Park. Following amendments to the *National Park Law* in 2011, Shoushan National Nature Park project was officially mapped-out and approved, thereby recognizing Shoushan's unique natural resources. The designated area includes Shoushan, Banpingshan, Guishan, the Fengshan County Old City Ruins, and Cihoushan. The park officially opened on December 6, 2011, becoming the first nature park in Taiwan aligned with the zoning management standards established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1974. This act created a protected area for the native flora and fauna found within Taiwan's national park system.



Ehretia resinosa



National Nature Park Headquarters



Western Shoushan collapsed coastal limestone blocks and steep cliffs



Bridle path on the Old City Wall of Fengshan County

Initially, the Shoushan National Nature Park Preparatory Office handled all of the park's operations. After the approval of an organizational structure, staffing, and procedural regulations, the National Nature Park Headquarters was officially established on November 28, 2019. The Headquarters oversees Shoushan National Nature Park, ensuring the protection of the park's unique wildlife, geology, landscapes, and historical sites. It also provides environmental education, recreational spaces, and academic research opportunities for the public. Additional branches were later set up, including the Cingpu Service Station for Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park and the Dadushan Service Station for Taichung Metropolitan Park. These serve as essential intermediaries linking national and metropolitan green spaces. Potential future National Nature Parks will also fall under the jurisdiction of this office, expanding the park's mission of sustainability and conservation.

In 2023, the Ministry of the Interior's National Park Service was officially established, overseeing the conservation of Taiwan's national parks, national nature parks, mountains, foothills, wetlands, and coastal zones. They subsequently updated their title to "National Nature Park Headquarters, National Park Service, Ministry of the Interior." In alignment with Taiwan's National Parks 2.0 era, they strive to deepen cross-regional conservation research, foster partnerships with local communities, and connect with international environmental networks.



Pomatorhinus musicus



Cihou Lighthouse



Regional Overview

The Shoushan National Nature Park encompasses both natural landscapes and historical sites, including Shoushan, Banpingshan, Guishan, and Cihoushan, spanning the Gushan, Zuoying, Nanzi, and Qijin Districts in Kaohsiung City. The Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park is located in the Nanzi and Qiaotou Districts, while Taichung Metropolitan Park traces the border of the Xitun and Shalu Districts in Taichung City. The areas managed by National Nature Park Headquarters are adjacent to urban centers from north to south, forming an uninterrupted green corridor. The regions are intricately connected with dense transportation networks, smoothly integrating them into urban life.



Banpingshan large Big Wall

Banpingshan

Banpingshan is the northernmost part of Shoushan National Nature Park, a spindle-shaped slope running northeast to southwest. Its distinct half-cut appearance resembles a towering barrier from a distance, giving it the name “Banpingshan” or “Half-Screen Mountain”. In addition to its limestone geology being susceptible to weathering and erosion, it has been further affected by cement mining activities, resulting in several historical collapses that have reduced the mountain’s height by several dozen meters. The current highest peak is approximately 170 meters above sea level.

Designated as a nationally important wetland by the Ministry of the Interior, Banping Lake also serves the purpose of detaining sediment runoff. As the wetland primarily relies on natural rainfall, it is significantly affected by seasonal changes and flooding, and due to the limestone terrain’s permeability, it often appears filled in summer and dry in winter.



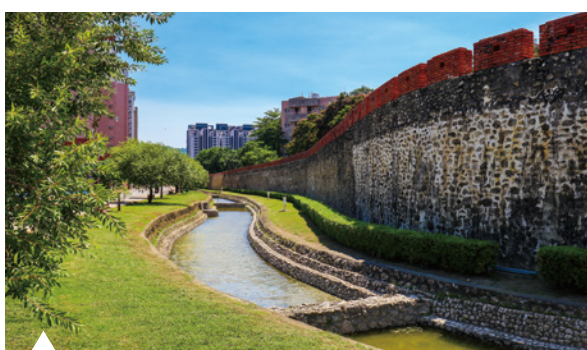
Banping Lake Wetland



Zuoying Old City Wall and Guishan



East Gate of the Old City



City wall and moat

Guishan

Shaped like a turtle, Guishan stands at 64 meters and lies on the eastern side of the old city of Zuoying. During the Japanese colonial period, the wall and Guishan were divided in order to connect the old train station to the military port (known as Shengli Rd.), resulting in what is now referred to as “Big and Little Guishan.”

Zuoying Fengshan County Old City was a stone fortress constructed during the Qing Dynasty, Taiwan’s first of its kind. Over time – due to transportation developments, military use under Japanese rule, and the establishment of military dependents’ villages under Nationalist rule – the old fortress has been altered from its original form. National heritage sites within Shoushan National Nature Park include the East Gate, North Gate, and segments of the old city wall, while the South Gate, Gongchen Well, Zhenfu Shrine, and the remains of the West Gate are located within the old city area.



Siangsih Pavilion in South Shoushan

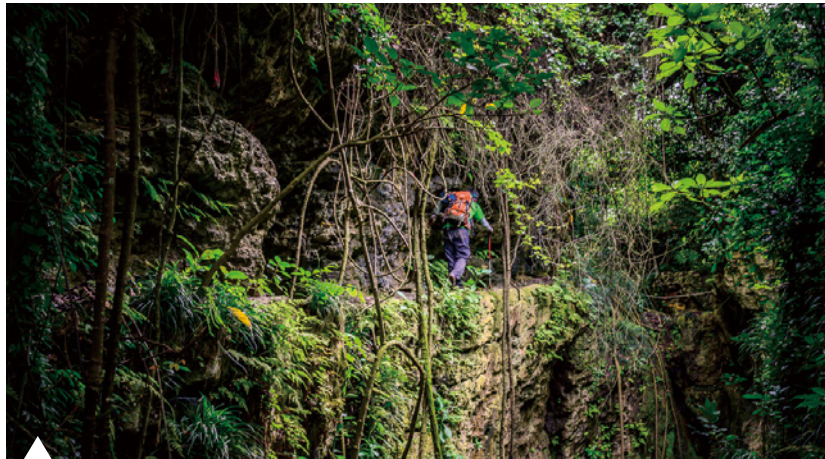
Shoushan

Shoushan – the largest area within Shoushan National Nature Park – forms a green island along Kaohsiung’s western edge. In addition to Cihoushan, Guishan, and Banpingshan, this area extends approximately 6 kilometers from north to south and 2 kilometers from east to west, reaching a maximum elevation of 356 meters. Its ridgeline runs northeast to southwest, creating a natural barrier across Gushan District.

The topography of Shoushan is divided into four distinct areas. Northern Shoushan resembles a basin that extends northward, and was historically called “Snake Mountain.” Central Shoushan, the highest region, features flat terrain, while Southern Shoushan presents a large, terraced area. Finally, Western Shoushan is characterized by steep, limestone-covered cliffs and sea-eroded landscapes. Shoushan’s rich geological resources and biodiversity make it a lowland ecosystem intricately connected to the surrounding community.



Formosan macaque is the most well-known species in Shoushan’s ecosystem.



Coral reef limestone in Shoushan-Little Zhulu



Aerial view of Cihoushan



The municipal designated historic site "Cihou Lighthouse" at the top of the mountain



Main Gate of the National Heritage Site "Cihou Fort"

Cihoushan

Cihoushan, located at the northern tip of Qijin District and the highest point on the island, forms a gorge with the southern end of Shoushan which is also Kaohsiung Port's first harbor entrance. Its western coral reef cliffs drop vertically into the Taiwan Strait.

Cihoushan is home to the "Cihou Fort," a National Heritage Site built under the supervision of Shen Baozhen for coastal defense. This structure is a blend of Western and Chinese architecture made from red bricks and iron cement. After the main gate was damaged by Japanese naval artillery, only the characters "Tian Nan" remain. The cannons have since been removed. Another city-designated historical site, "Cihou Lighthouse," stands atop the hill. This octagonal brick lighthouse was first constructed during the Japanese Era when Kaohsiung Port was expanded. The old lighthouse from the Qing Dynasty, built shortly after the port's opening, is located nearby.



Yungipicus canicapillus



Papilio demoleus



Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park Landmark, "Golden Rooster Sundial"



Otus lettia glabripes

Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park

Located north of Houjin Creek in Kaohsiung City, Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park includes an eastern area beside the Cingpu Creek tributary in addition to a secondary western area. Previously a landfill and a Taiwan Sugar Corporation farm, it was the first metropolitan park under the "Metropolitan Area Recreational Facilities Development Program for Taiwan," marking the start of local park development. Having once accumulated up to 9 million tons of landfill, it has since been converted into a green space. The park offers public recreational services while also enhancing environmental quality, promoting education, and offering disaster-relief functions with a range of indoor and outdoor facilities.



Taichung Metropolitan Park Landmark, "Seed Sundial"



Pyrus calleryana



Aspidimorpha miliaris

Taichung Metropolitan Park

Located along the Dadu Plateau ridgeline, the park's east side overlooks the Taichung Basin and surrounding mountain ranges, while the west side offers views of Taichung Port and the Taiwan Strait, showcasing Taichung's mountain, sea, and urban landscapes. Covering about 88 hectares, the native plant communities attract a diversity of birds and insects. With preserved military historical sites, Taichung Metropolitan Park serves as a recreational site that balances environmental education and ecological conservation.



Lilium formosanum

Geological Landscape

Before Shoushan emerged, this area was a tranquil deep-sea blanketed with mudstone. Eventually, due to its position at the convergence of the Philippine and Eurasian tectonic plates, internal Earth forces uplifted the submerged coral reefs until they rose above sea level. This formation, known as an "uplifted reef," is characterized by coral fossils embedded in the limestone, which is clear evidence of seafloor elevation to land. The geological formations within Shoushan National Nature Park can be divided into four strata from the bottom to the top: "Gutingkeng Formation," "Kaohsiung Limestone," "Shoushan Limestone," and "Present-day alluvial & Colluvial Layers." The Gutingkeng Formation and Kaohsiung Limestone primarily constitute Banpingshan and Shoushan.





Geological Development of Shoushan

Gutingkeng Formation / Submarine Sedimentation Period

Roughly 800,000 to 2 million years ago, the Shoushan and the southwestern Taiwan regions were still a part of a marine sedimentary environment on a continental slope. As suspended fine-grained sediment slowly settled on the seafloor, it formed a bluish-gray mudstone layer known as the "Gutingkeng Formation." This formation, along with the overlying Kaohsiung Limestone, mainly constitutes Shoushan's structure.

Kaohsiung Limestone / Coral Reef Formation Period

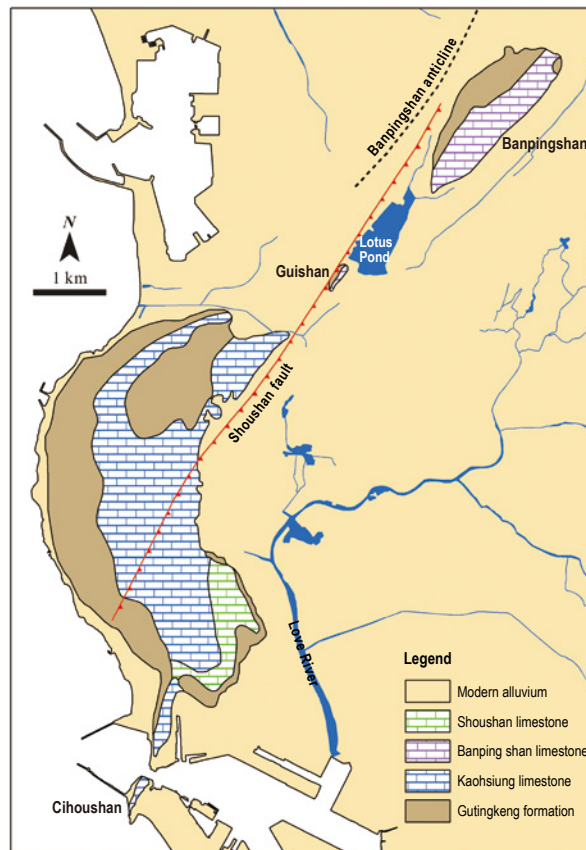
Between 800,000 and 100,000 years ago, tectonic activity caused the seafloor to continuously uplift to a shallow marine environment. Here, marine deposit and cold-seep carbonate cemented together, creating a hard substrate suitable for coral growth. Corals developed into reefs, gradually accumulating to form the "Kaohsiung Limestone," which is Shoushan's primary limestone layer, reaching a maximum thickness of 500 meters.

Shoushan Limestone / Coral Reef Reformation

Around 100,000 years ago, Shoushan continued to rise above sea level through tectonic uplift, while new coral reefs formed southeast of Shoushan. This process eventually led to the development of the "Shoushan Limestone," creating a semi-terrestrial, semi-marine environment.

Modern Alluvium / Kaohsiung Plain Deposition

Rivers from Taiwan's western mountain ranges carried vast amounts of sediment to form an alluvial plain on Shoushan's eastern side. Sediments indicate that the "Kaohsiung Plain" transformed from land to a bay, evolving into an ancient Kaohsiung lagoon. Over time, it gradually silted up and transformed back into land, forming the present-day Kaohsiung landscape.



Geological map of Shoushan National Nature Park

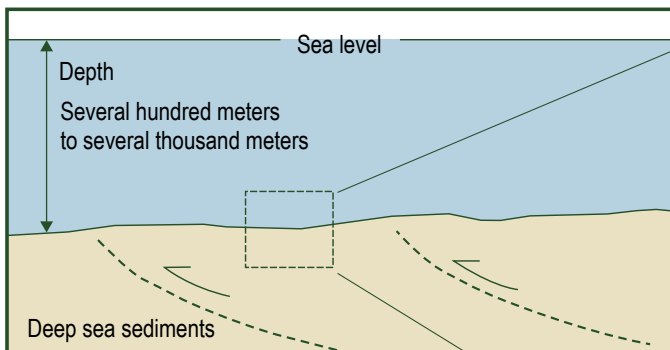


The geology of Shoushan is formed by limestone, with coral skeletons found within.

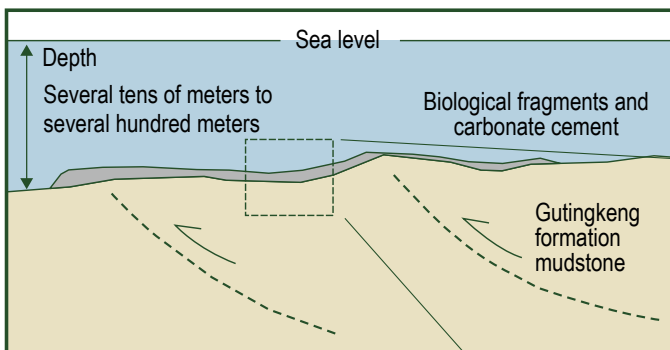
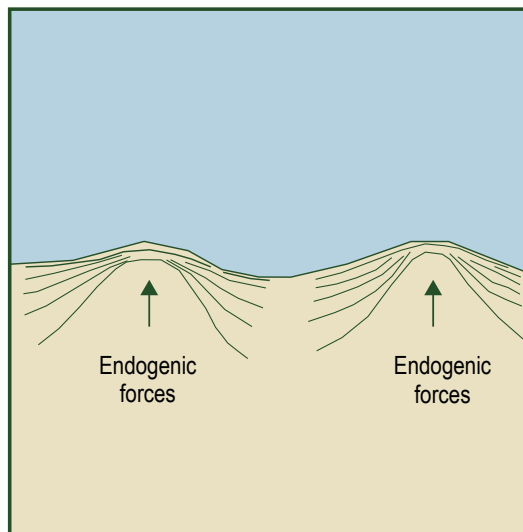


Hiking on the trail in Northern Shoushan atop the coral reef limestone

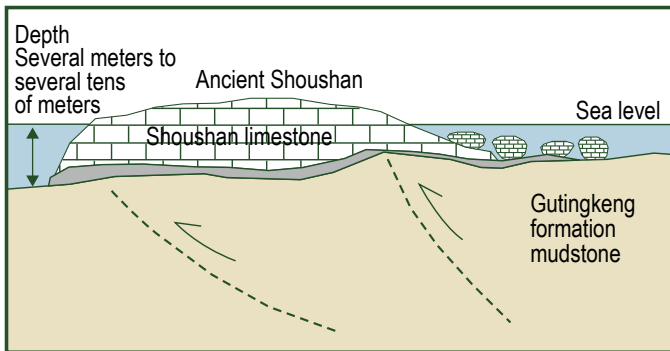
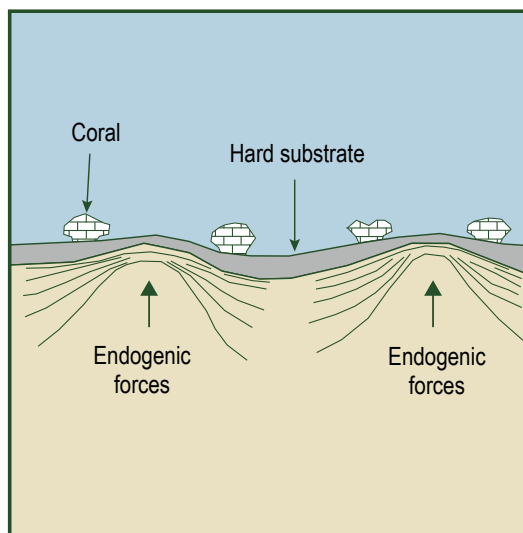
Geological and terrain evolution map of the Shoushan Area



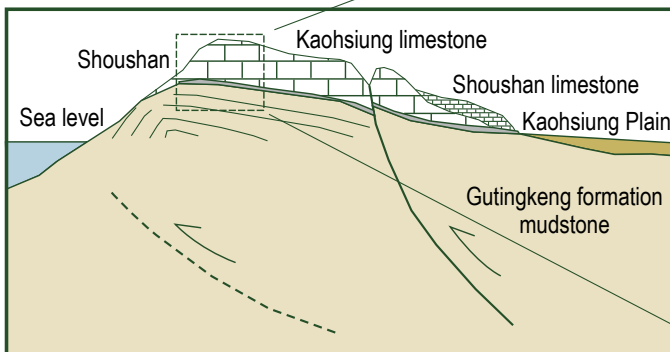
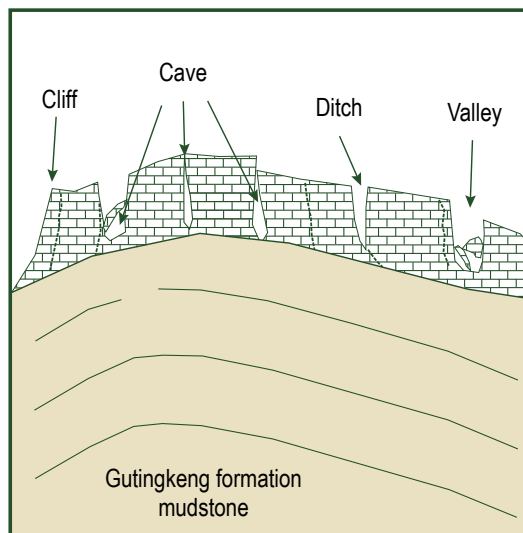
Late Miocene to Early Pleistocene
(about 2 million to 800,000 years ago)



Early Pleistocene (about 800,000 years ago)



Early Pleistocene to Late Pleistocene
(about 800,000 to 100,000 years ago)



Late Pleistocene to Present (about 100,000 years ago to present)

Formation of Shoushan's Landscape

The rock formations forming Banpingshan, Guishan, Shoushan, and Cihoushan emerged during the Middle to Late Pleistocene, gradually rising to form mountains. Over time, external forces shaped today's landscape. Banpingshan was shaped into a cuesta by tectonic activity, while Guishan and Cihoushan emerged as flat-topped limestone hills. Shoushan's topography was shaped by anticlinal uplift and faulting, creating basin-like features in Northern Shoushan, terraced features in Central Shoushan, and stepped terrain in Southern Shoushan.

During the uplift process, coral reef limestone was compressed, causing the limestone body to fracture and form joints. External forces then dissolved and eroded the fractured limestone, while gravity-induced "mass movement" widened fractures into grooves and valleys to create narrow gorges, canyons, and steep cliffs. Joint movements also contributed to the development of Shoushan's various caves. Its high, narrow caves were formed by the widening of joint fractures, while its talus caves were formed by rock collapses. After the caves form, they are shaped by karst processes, which create various formations like stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstones.

The west side of Shoushan, where limestone masses often collapse under gravity and coastal erosion, exemplifies this process. Fractured limestone blocks re-cement together after collapsing, but in a weakened state or more susceptible to erosion and collapse.

Mass Movement

"Mass movement" refers to the downward movement of rock, debris, and soil on the Earth's surface due to forces like gravity.



West Side of Cihoushan with steep coral reef cliffs. The surface of the cliff shows various directions of fractures, which are joints.



Cliffs and fallen rocks of the coast at Western Shoushan



Narrow limestone rift terrain of Shoushan



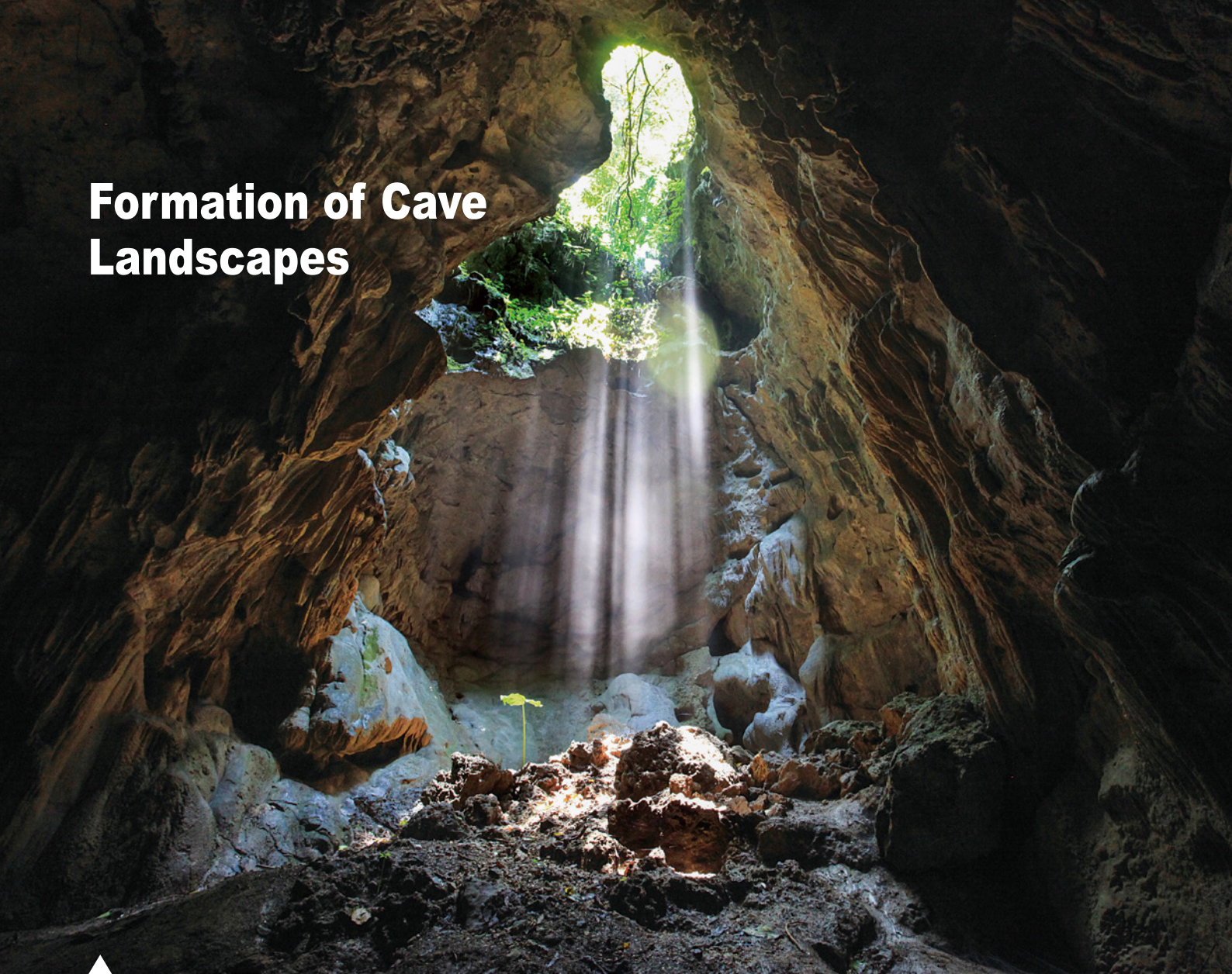
Sea cave of Western Shoushan

Sea Caves

Through the persistent effects of seawater (wave erosion and weathering), the base of coastal cliffs gradually erodes to form a sea notch. As the overlying rock layer loses support, it collapses, gradually expanding the notch. With continued erosion, the notch deepens and widens into a sea cave, eventually penetrating the rock formation and creating a fully-formed sea arch.



Formation of Cave Landscapes



Skylight of Tianyu Tiancai Cave



Circular precipitation of calcium carbonate in groundwater forms translucent hollow stalactites.

As coral reef environments undergo relative land uplift, transitioning from sea to land, they are increasingly exposed to weathering effects. When rain falls, carbon dioxide from the air dissolves in the water, combining with water molecules to form bicarbonate and hydrogen ions, increasing the acidity of the rain. When the acidic rain contacts limestone, it gradually dissolves the calcium carbonate into the water. The water then flows through rock fractures into the caves.

Inside the cave, changes in temperature, pressure, carbon dioxide concentration, and humidity cause the water to evaporate slowly, leading to a high concentration of calcium ions. The bicarbonate and calcium ions recombine to precipitate as calcium carbonate within the cave, gradually forming various cave formations such as stalactites growing downward from dripping water, flowstones, stone draperies, and stalagmites forming upward from deposition.



Large flowstones in Jingua Cave



Beifeng Jile Cave is a representative narrow triangular cave



Orangutan Cave

Springs in the Shoushan Area

Springs are another distinctive landscape feature of Shoushan National Nature Park. During the rainy season, rainwater and surface water infiltrate through limestone fissures, creating mountain groundwater that gradually merges with groundwater in the plains. When the groundwater level in the plains rises, it also elevates the mountain groundwater level, causing spring water to emerge at the boundary between them. The Longyan Cold Spring one of the "Eight Scenic Spots of Fengshan", located near the trailhead by Longquan Temple on Shoushan, is a prime example.

Additionally, springs rich in sulfide can develop into sulfur springs. Microbial communities that use sulfides as a nutrient source often form white filamentous structures in the water, which are poetically referred to as "spring flowers." The Shitougong Spring near Gushan High School is an example of this type of spring.

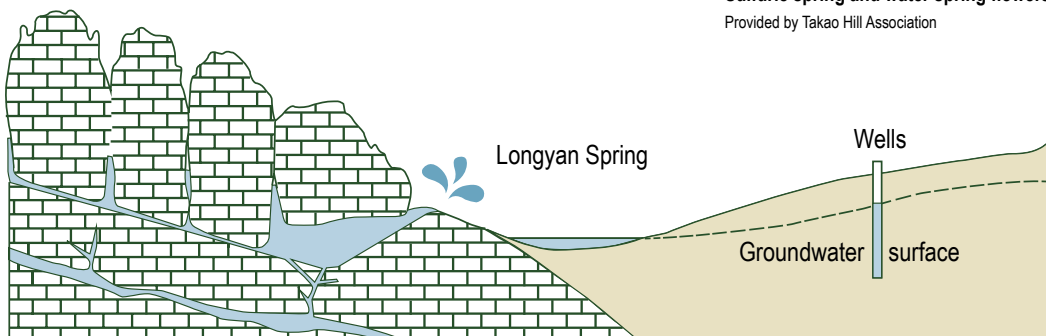


Longyan Cold Spring aqueduct



Sulfuric spring and water spring flowers near Shitougong

Provided by Takao Hill Association



Shoushan Spring is affected by the underground water levels of the mountain and plain, emerging with changes in water levels.



Formosan Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*)



Ecological Resources

The elevation of Shoushan National Nature Park ranges between 0 to 356 meters. It features a north-south-oriented landscape of elevated coral reef limestone, located south of the Tropic of Cancer. The region experiences a tropical to subtropical monsoon climate, with warm temperatures year-round and distinct wet and dry seasons. Shoushan's rugged and steep terrain, shaped by its unique geological features, undergoes significant erosion from heavy rainfall and surface runoff, resulting in rocky soil similar to the limestone bedrock.

During the Japanese colonial period, a protection forest was established in the Shoushan area through extensive planting. Later, much of this area became a restricted military zone, which helped minimize human impact on the environment. These measures have preserved Shoushan National Nature Park's rich biodiversity, creating a foundational ecosystem that supports a wide range of species.

Flora

The four mountains within Shoushan National Nature Park encompass tropical and subtropical seasonal forests and broadleaf forests, shaped by the distinctive high coral reef limestone terrain and soil conditions, as well as the regional climate and other factors.

Flora differs by area, largely due to environmental variations, levels of human impact, and historical land use. For example, the trails and military zones in Northern Shoushan preserve the most intact natural broadleaf forests, showcasing the park's biodiversity. In contrast, Southern Shoushan and the former Taiwan Cement mining areas, with open terrain and limited soil water retention, support more drought-resistant deciduous and semi-deciduous forests. Banpingshan features areas of fast-growing species in secondary forests. Cihoushan is characterized by coastal evergreen shrubs growing on coral reef rock. Meanwhile, Guishan, experiencing frequent human disturbances, has lower biodiversity and is primarily covered by pioneer plants and grasslands.

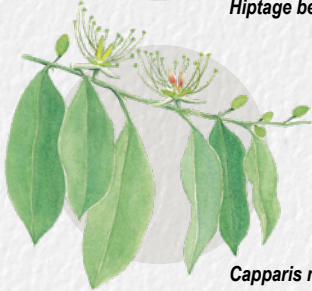


Ficus septica

Spring



Hiptage benghalensis



Capparis micracantha
var. *henryi*



Dendrocnide meyeniana

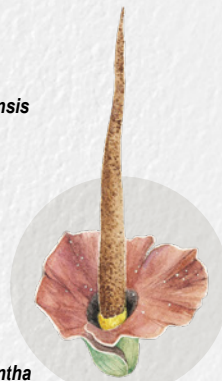
Summer



Hoya carnosa



Amorphophallus hirtus



Amorphophallus henryi



Pisonia aculeata

Tropical/Subtropical Uplifted Coral Reef Seasonal Forests

The seasonal climate influences distinct biological patterns throughout the park, where over 380 plant species can be observed along major trails, approximately 60% of which are native to Taiwan. Blooms and fruiting occur year-round, with peak flowering from March to July and fruiting primarily from October to January, providing a consistent food source for various animals. The forest canopy ranges from low to high, featuring shrubs and small trees like Formosan sugar palm, *Severinia buxifolia* and *Capparis micracantha* var. *henryi*. Larger trees include *Dendrocnide meyeniana*, *Ehretia resinosa* and prominent species of figs, such as *Ficus microcarpa*, *Ficus septica*, and *Ficus caulocarpa*. Common low-elevation secondary forest species, such as *Macaranga tanarius*, *Broussonetia papyrifera*, and *Melanolepis multiglandulosa*, are also interspersed throughout the forest.



Formosan Sugar Palm



Formosan Sugar Palm inflorescence



Amorphophallus henryi

Autumn



Vitex negundo



Severinia buxifolia

Winter



Clematis formosana



Phanera championii



Phanera championii



Pisonia aculeata



Hiptage benghalensis

Vines

Vine species thrive in Shoushan's tropical forest and coral reef limestone landscape, using twisting, clinging, and attaching behaviors to spread through the forest and climb into the canopy. The warm, tropical conditions and unique terrain make this environment ideal for many types of vines. Common species include *Malaisia scandens* and *Mallotus repandus*, which are seen throughout much of the park. Other distinctive vines include *Pisonia aculeata* and *Phanera championii*. Shoushan is also home to native species like *Clematis formosana* and *Ventilago elegans*, with type specimens documented.



Clematis formosana



Ficus tinctoria

Coastal Plants

The west coast of Shoushan and Cihoushan is home to Taiwan's largest populations of *Ficus tinctoria*, an indicator species of coral reef limestone. This region also supports stable populations of *Phoenix hanceana*, *Pandanus tectorius* and *Scaevola taccada*, forming coastal evergreen shrublands shaped by sea breezes and monsoon winds. Cihoushan's windbreak forests consist of trees like *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Terminalia catappa*, and *Heliotropium foertherianum*, mixed with coastal vines and shrubs.

Specific Plants

Shoushan National Nature Park is home to two of Taiwan's four native *Amorphophallus* species. At the start of the rainy season, *Amorphophallus henryi* is the first to bloom, followed by *Amorphophallus hirtus*. Shoushan also features ground-dwelling wild orchids, whose bloom attracts visitors to the park. Notable species include *Geodorum densiflorum* and *Tropidia angulosa*. Another highlight is *Hoya carnosa*, known for its spherical clusters of flowers.



Geodorum densiflorum



Hoya carnosa

Fauna

Mammals

Among the mammals in Shoushan National Nature Park, the Formosan macaque is the most prominent. Visitors may also occasionally spot the Formosan muntjac, masked palm civet, and ferret badger. The park's numerous natural limestone caves and abandoned military tunnels create a cave ecosystem that supports a large population of Formosan leaf-nosed bats.



Masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*)

Spring



Accipiter soloensis migration



Rhinolophus monoceros breeding period

Summer

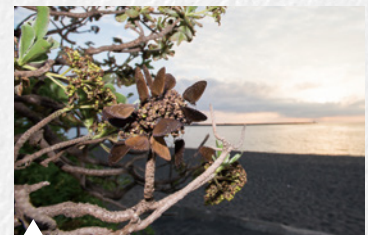


Geothelphusa makatao carrying juvenile crabs



Frog breeding period – *Sylvirana guentheri*

Autumn



The *Euploea* southward winter migration



Crab breeding migration season – *Discoplax hirtipes*

Formosan macaque

Endemic to Taiwan, Formosan macaques live in groups of about 20-30 individuals. They are diurnal, social animals that primarily eat fruit, though their diet includes various plants. Their breeding season lasts from October to February, and most infants are born between April and June. Originally, Formosan macaques did not inhabit areas near humans, but long-term feeding behaviors have led some groups to move closer to the base of Shoushan, resulting in conflicts with people. To promote peaceful coexistence, visitors are encouraged to avoid feeding, touching, or provoking the macaques.



Formosan macaque (*Macaca cyclopis*)



Formosan Muntjac

The Formosan muntjac, the smallest of Taiwan's three endemic deer species, is a solitary animal that is active during both daytime and nighttime. It inhabits broadleaf forests, shrublands, and valleys in Shoushan and feeds on leaves and tender plants. Although classified as Least Concern (LC) on Taiwan's Red List, its population has been declining rapidly due to conflicts with stray dogs; shrinking habitats; and stress from predation and diseases transmitted by stray animals.

Formosa Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

Birds

The low-elevation forests in Shoushan are home to a wide variety of birds, including *Psilopogon nuchalis*, *Bambusicola sonorivox*, and *Garrulax taewanus*. Raptors like *Spilornis cheela* and *Accipiter trivirgatus* can occasionally be seen from the park, while native species such as *Chalcophaps indica*, *Hypothymis azurea*, and *Pomatorhinus musicus* are more widespread. The park is also an important stopover for migratory raptors; during spring and autumn, *Butastur indicus* and *Accipiter soloensis* migrate through Banpingshan.



Spilornis cheela



Bambusicola sonorivox



Hypothymis azurea



Trimeresurus stejnegeri

Amphibians and Reptiles

The limestone geology and distinct wet and dry seasons in the park limit amphibian diversity. However, some amphibians, such as *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Microhyla fissipes*, and *Fejervarya limnocharis*, can be found by small ponds or wet creeks, especially during the rainy season. Shoushan's reptiles are more diverse; they include species like *Diploderma swinhonis*, *Eutropis longicaudata*, and *Hemidactylus frenatus*. The porous terrain also provides ideal habitats for snakes, with *Trimeresurus stejnegeri*, *Elaphe carinata*, and *Orthriophis taeniurus* frequently spotted.



Sesarmops imperator



Coenobita cavipes



Microhyla fissipes



Diploderma swinhonis

Crabs

With its coastline along the Taiwan Strait, reduced human impact due to military control, and clean sources of freshwater, Shoushan's west coast and Cihoushan provide ideal habitats for land crabs, including *Geothelphusa makatao*. This area is also a hotspot for marine land crabs, including species like *Coenobita cavipes*, *Coenobita brevipanus*, *Metasesarma aubryi*, *Sesarmops imperator*, and *Discoplax hirtipes*. Some species display reproductive behaviors involving the release of larvae into the sea.

Geothelphusa makatao

Geothelphusa makatao, the endemic species in Taiwan, is found only in the Shoushan and Banpingshan areas. This fully freshwater species never enters seawater. Originally mistaken for *Geothelphusa albogilva*, it was later identified as a distinct species based on morphological traits and molecular evidence. *Geothelphusa makatao* is relatively large for its genus and exhibits significant color variation. It inhabits soft, moist soil or mountain stream areas and has a high demand for clean water, making Shoushan's unpolluted freshwater habitats vital to its survival. Sightings occur more frequently after rainfall.



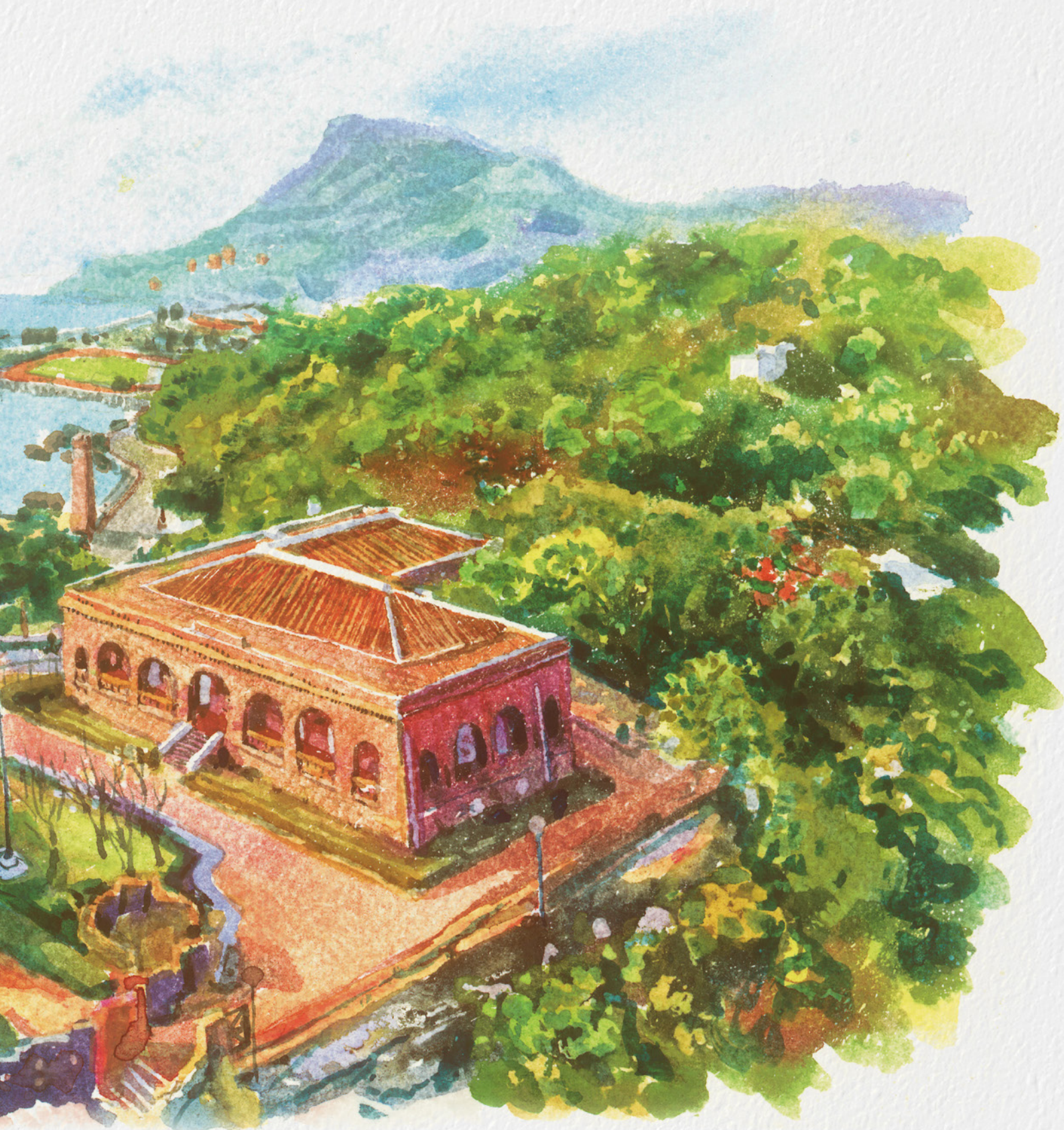
Geothelphusa makatao

Cultural Heritage Sites

Shoushan, also known by various names such as Monkey mountain, Takao Mountain, Dagushan, Maijinshan, and Chaishan, embodies centuries of cultural memory. Guishan, situated within Taiwan's first stone city, stands as a testament to the historic prosperity of the Old City of Zuoying. Cihoushan rises prominently in the Takao Gap, like a stage capturing the evolving history of the bay's development. The shifting landscapes of Banpingshan mirror the essence of human activity on this land.

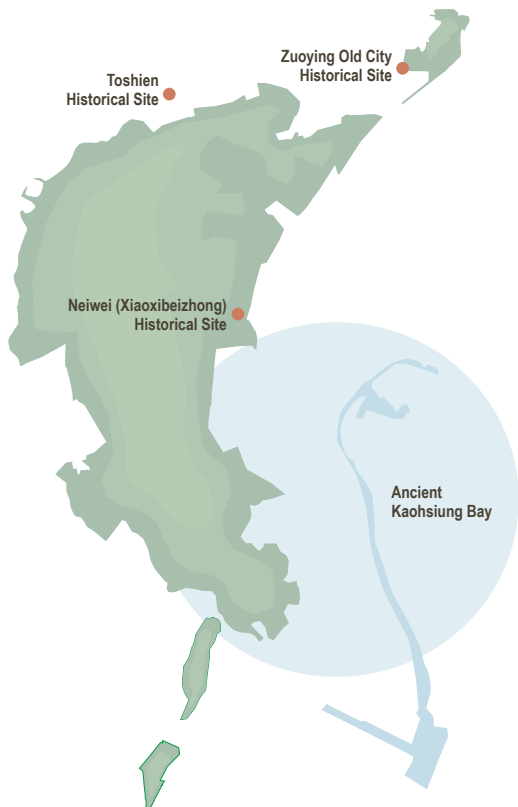
The national nature park preserves a wealth of cultural landscapes, showcasing a rich tapestry of archaeological artifacts, ruins, historic buildings, and visual records, spanning from prehistoric times to the post-war era and illustrating the diverse developments of various ethnic groups across millennia.





British Consulate Residence in Takow (Kaohsiung)

Prehistoric Footsteps of the Takao Ancestors



Zuoying Old City Historical Site (approximately 5,000 to 3,400 years ago)

Located within the old city of Fengshan County in Zuoying, this site is now a designated historical site. Humans gradually transitioned from the Neolithic “Dapenkeng Culture” to the “Niuchouzi Culture,” indicating that activities had already begun in the Zuoying area. Once coastal sand dunes, the land developed to support a mature agricultural lifestyle alongside hunting and gathering.

Toshien Historical Site (approximately 4,500 to 3,000 years ago)

Situated on the northwest side of Shoushan, this site yielded various shells and numerous artifacts, likely associated with the late Neolithic “Fengbitou Culture.” Settlements were established near riverbanks, and the inhabitants lived a lifestyle reliant on the sea for sustenance. Gathering and fishing sources likely originated from the ancient Kaohsiung Harbor which was still a lagoon at that time.

Neiwei (Xiaoxibeizhong) Historical Site (approximately 1,800 to 450 years ago)

Found behind Longquan Temple on the eastern side of Shoushan, this site revealed various shells, pottery shards, stone tools, and metal artifacts, belonging to the Niasong Culture of the metal age. Besides the prehistoric shell mound, it is speculated that this culture is closely related to the daily lives of the Makatau Indigenous people.



Bone toothbrush excavated from Zuoying Old City Historical Site
Source: Open Museum, Collection: Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica.



Excavated artifact restoration diagram – sand-incised red pottery



Neiwei (Xiaoxibeizhong) Historical Site, Eeposed animal bones, sea shells, and broken pottery fragments

The Rise and Fall of Zuoying Old City

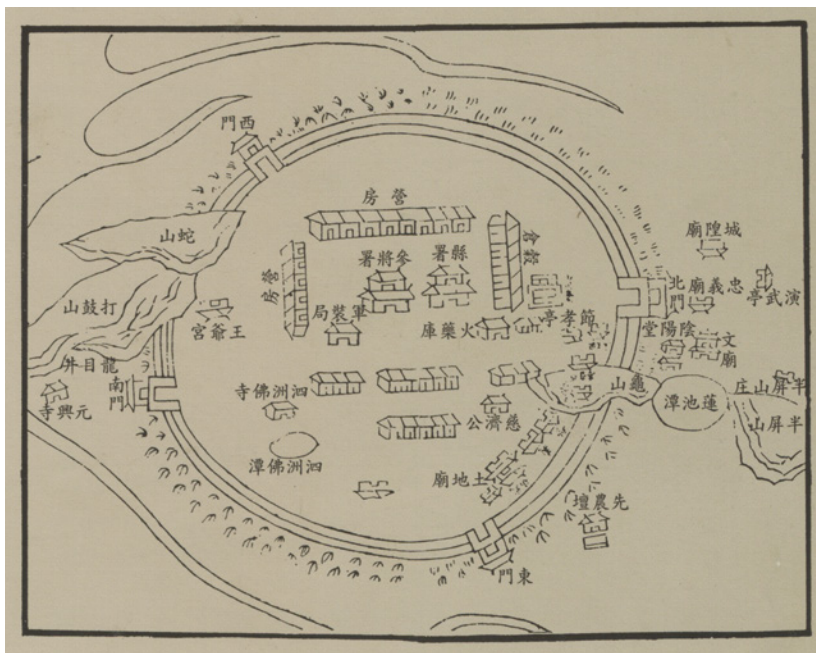


Diagram of the Fengshan County city wall and interior layout , “with Guishan on the left and Sheshan on the right”

Source: Adapted from Wang Yingzeng's Revised Gazetteer of Fengshan County, 29th year of the Qianlong reign (1764)



Fengshan Country Old City North Gate was the only gate with embedded guardian deities



Inner side of the East Gate and the Horse Path Entrance of the Old City

The Beginning of a Prosperous County Seat

In the mid to late 17th century, during the Ming Zheng period, a Han settlement began to form south of the Cheng Tian Prefecture (now Zuoying District). During the Kangxi era, after Taiwan was integrated into the Qing Empire, this area became an important administrative center for Fengshan County, with bustling markets and Confucian temples located near Guishan. In 1721, the Zhu Yigui incident occurred, and Fengshan County was occupied. After the suppression of the rebellion the following year, the Fengshan earthen city was built, nestled between Guishan and Sheshan, surrounded by a moat, making it the first earthen city in Taiwan.

Abandoning Sheshan for Guishan

During the Qianlong period, the Lin Shuangwen incident led to the recapture of the Fengshan earthen city. In 1788, the county seat was relocated to Xiapitou Street (now Fengshan District), establishing Xincheng or “New City.” Between 1805 and 1824, local uprisings were frequent, and the Fengshan Xincheng was captured twice. The governor suggested relocating the county seat back to the old city, and officials and residents contributed funds to rebuild the city using stone. In 1826, the first brick wall in Taiwan was completed, featuring defensive parapets and four gates – East (Fengyi), West (Dianhai), South (Qiwen), and North (Gongchen). The new city walls enclosed Guishan entirely, severing connections to Sheshan, hence the later nickname “Abandoning the snake for the turtle”, yet the county seat never returned.



Postcards from the Japanese colonial period show that the old city's city wall remained largely intact

Source: Open Museum, Collection: National Taiwan Museum of History



Early military control boundary markers left in the overgrown grass

Military Significance of Zuoying

During Japanese rule, the port of Takao spurred new industries, with the new city area developing around modern-day Hamasen, Yancheng, and Gushan, becoming a military outpost for Japan's southern expansion. After 1937, Wandan Port was established on the northern side of Kaohsiung Port as a military harbor (now Zuoying Military Port), and Zuoying Old City was designated for military use. Residents and temples within the city were forcibly relocated, and parts of the city wall were dismantled to create ammunition depots and barracks. Gun positions and bunkers were also established, drastically transforming the old city landscape.

After World War II, the National government took over the existing assets of the Japanese military. Following the relocation to Taiwan in 1949, a large number of military dependents' villages were built. Zuoying not only became a naval base but also a community densely populated by military families. Today, one can still see the remnants of military dependents' villages, with residents having made additions and alterations to their homes on the old city walls.

Chronicles of Shoushan

Western Perspectives on “Takao Mountain”

In 1864, customs was established at Takao Port, marking its official opening. Robert Swinhoe, the British vice-consul in Taiwan, explored the region, pioneering studies in Taiwan's natural history. The Taiwan rock macaque (*Macaca cyclopis*) was a new species he collected and named in Shoushan. When the British consulate was first established in Takao, it was initially on the ship "Sanjia," later relocating to Cihou and establishing the “Consulate Office” at Shaochuantou in 1875, with the official residence completed on the mountaintop in 1879, connected by a path.

Between 1892 and 1894, Augustine Henry visited Taiwan for botanical collection and research, focusing on areas around Houshan and Takao. He sent back to the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK at least 40 specimens from Shoushan, including several endemic species used as type specimens, such as *Amorphophallus hirtus*.



Type specimen of the *Amorphophallus hirtus*

Source: The Journal of the Linnean Society of London. Botany 36: 181. 1903.



The British Consulate in Takow (Takao) was converted into a Kaohsiung Prefecture Fisheries Experiment Station during the Japanese colonial period Source: Open Museum, Collection: National Taiwan Museum of History

In 1929 during Japanese rule, the British consulate residence was transformed into the “Kaohsiung Ocean Observatory.” After the restoration, it was renamed “Central Weather Bureau Kaohsiung Station.” The office below was established as “Kaohsiung Fisheries Experimental Station” in 1932 and later became “Taiwan Provincial Fisheries Experimental Station Kaohsiung Branch” in 1976. The consulate office, old trails, and residence are now national historic sites, integrated into a cultural park.





Reforestation and Taiwan Cement Company's old factory area after mining stopped in the Shoushan mining area
 Source: Photographed/Provided by Ke Yao Yuan



In 1923, Prince Hirohito stayed at the Shoushan Pavilion in Kaohsiung, which has since been demolished
 Source: Open Museum, Collection: National Taiwan Museum of History

Half a Century of Mining

As early as the Dutch colonial period, Takao Mountain was mined for limestone and timber, a practice that continued through the Qing Dynasty. In 1907, the Japanese government established Taiwan's first protection forest, encompassing Cihoushan, Banpingshan, and Takao Mountain which served to protect water sources and prevent erosion. However, in 1917, the Asano Cement Company completed a factory at Takao, mechanizing the extraction of limestone resources. Later, the National government appropriated it for the Kaohsiung Cement Plant and approved mining at Banpingshan. For over half a century, the cement industry thrived in the Neiwei area until ecological and geological destruction raised environmental concerns, leading to its closure in 1992.

From Takao Park to Shoushan National Nature Park

Takao Park was Kaohsiung's first urban park, with afforestation and road construction beginning in 1908, creating a scenic park with forested mountain views near the city. Over time, recreational and religious facilities appeared on the mountain. In 1923, Crown Prince Hirohito visited the area, and in honor of his birthday, the government renamed Kaohsiung Mountain as Shoushan. Dr. Honda Seiroku was then invited to design the park, and in 1928, Takao Park was expanded into "Shoushan Memorial Park," hosting festivals and ceremonies to enrich its role in the community. Later, Shoushan Memorial Park was voted one of the "Eight Views of Taiwan" by Taiwan Daily News, marking its significance as a cultural landmark in Kaohsiung.

In 1937, the Japanese government designated Shoushan, Guishan, and Banpingshan as military fortress zones, a restriction maintained by the Nationalist government after relocating to Taiwan. After martial law ended, Shoushan and its surrounding areas began opening to the public for recreational use in 1989. Following years of advocacy, Shoushan National Nature Park was officially established in 2011.



Shoushan, one of the "Eight Views of Taiwan" illustrated by Yoshida Shūzaburō
 Source: Open Museum, Collection: National Taiwan Museum of History

Memories of Cihoushan

At the northern end of Cijin, facing Shoushan across Takao Gap (now Port of Kaohsiung), Cihoushan rises like a flag, and the settlements behind it are called "Cihou." The fishing village of Cihou arose during the Dutch colonial period due to the catch of mullet.

Cihou Cannon Platform and Lighthouse

In 1874, the Mudan Incident prompted Shen Baozhen's mission to Taiwan for coastal defense, establishing "Weizhen (Zhi Zhu) Tiannan" and "Xiongzheng Beimen" cannon platforms on either side of Takao Port, built with red bricks and a blend of Chinese and Western architectural styles, guarding the port. In 1883, during the Sino-French War, the Cihou Cannon Platform was fortified and expanded into three zones: a barracks in the northern area, a command zone in the central area, and an ammunition depot in the southern area, with a Western-style square lighthouse standing at the northern end of Cihoushan. In 1895, Japanese warships shelled Cihou, and the first two characters of the inscription "OO 天南" on the gate plaque are no longer identifiable.



The two characters on the plaque of Cihou Fort were lost after being hit by Japanese naval gunfire in 1895, and the original characters are now unknown.



The Cihou Fort, built with red bricks and iron cement, blends Chinese and Western architectural styles.



A photo of the Cihou Fort during the Japanese colonial period, taken around the 1920s.

Source: Open Museum, Collection: Lafayette Digital Repository



The Cihou Lighthouse is currently maintained and open to the public daily by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications

During Japanese rule, to expand Takao Port, a new lighthouse was built in 1916 next to the first generation of the demolished lighthouse. In 1972, the current lighthouse was constructed, marking the evolution of Cihou into a fishing hub.



A postcard from the Japanese colonial period featuring the Cihou Lighthouse, with the first-generation lighthouse built during the Qing Dynasty on the right, before it was demolished Source: Kaohsiung City Museum of History.

The Years of Banpingshan

During the Qing Dynasty, "Cui Ping Evening Glow" was one of the well-known "Eight Views of Fengshan". The county magistrate of Fengshan, Li Piyu, once wrote a poem titled "Banpingshan": "Suddenly rising from the ground, half a wall towers over the fragrant islet. Emerald green fills the empty sky, misty light locks the green fields. Bird paths arch beneath the dark peaks, cloud sails gather the blue sea. Shadows fall into the lotus pond's water, leaving traces of a thousand years." However, in the eyes of Westerners, the green plains appear to rise like a whale surfacing in the sea, leading them to call it "Whale Back Mountain."

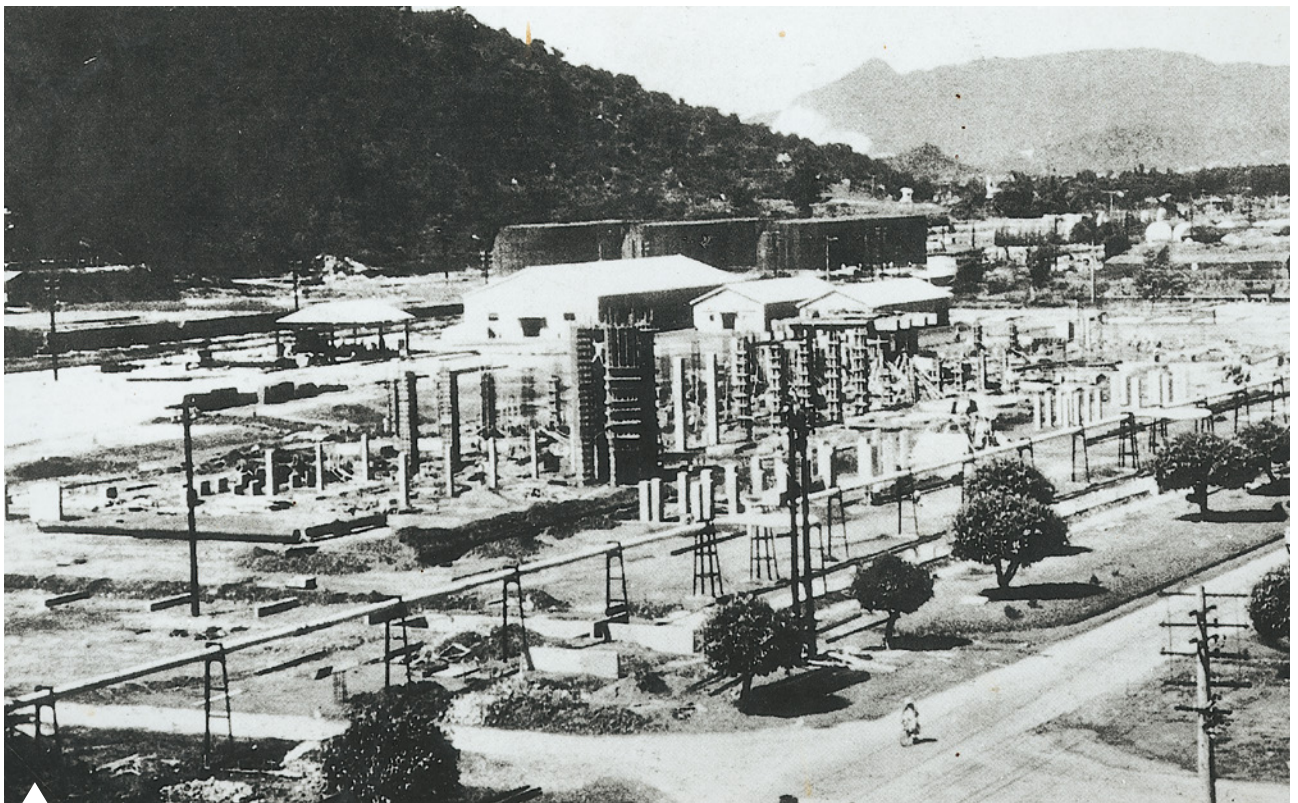


A postcard from the Japanese colonial period showing a view of Banpingshan from the Old City of Zuoying.

Source: Open Museum, Collection: National Taiwan Museum of History

Memoir of the Military Base

In 1937, the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out, and the Japanese government established the Kaohsiung Fortress, executing plans for a military harbor. Later, the Kaohsiung Garrison was established in Zuoying, and the "Sixth Naval Fuel Factory" (the predecessor of the CPC Kaohsiung Refinery) was set up at the foot of Banpingshan on the northeast side of the military zone. During the later stages of the Pacific War, Banpingshan and Shoushan established a continuous defensive artillery network protecting the military harbor and Kaohsiung Harbor as the situation intensified. By 1945, as American air raids became more frequent, "Cave Factories" were excavated on the southern side of Banpingshan to relocate fuel factory production equipment, preventing damage from bombings. Military relics can still be seen in many places around Banpingshan today.



The Sixth Navy Fuel Factory established by the Japanese government after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War Source: Kaohsiung City Museum of History.

Recreational Information





Formosan rock macaque



Shoushan

#LimestoneGeology #CoralReefLimestoneSeasonalFloraAndFauna #ShoushanWestCoast #PrehistoricSites
#TakowBritishConsulate

Trail Routes

The Shoushan Park has multiple hiking trails, allowing visitors to arrange eco-tours or hiking activities according to their purposes.

[North Shoushan Route]

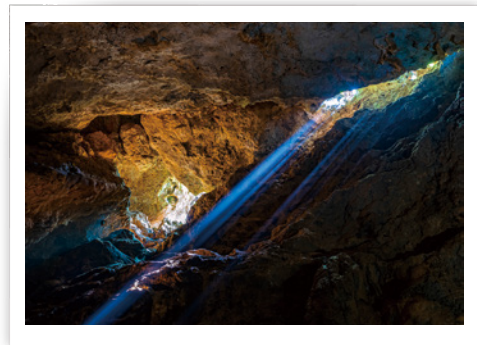
📍 Longquan Temple Trailhead → Overlook Kaohsiung → Yazuo Tea Station → Jhongsin Pavilion → Four Banyans → North Shoushan Trailhead

[Central and South Shoushan Route]

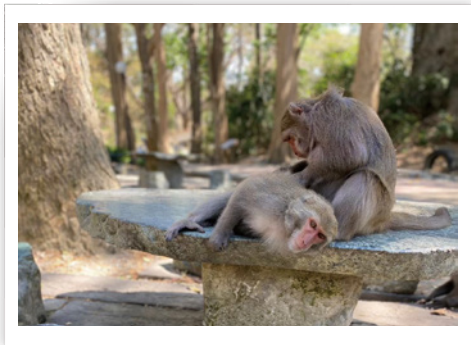
📍 South Shoushan Trailhead → Siangsih Pavilion → Ciman Tea Station → Banyan Grove Tea Station → Central Observation Deck → South Shoushan Trailhead



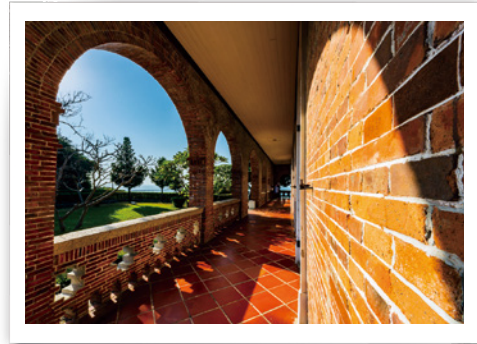
The northern Shoushan features abundant native ecology dotted with wooden boardwalks and prehistoric sites.



Exploration and rock climbing activities are available on the limestone terrain. Currently, access may be granted to the Orangutan Cave, Tianyu Tiancai Cave, Beifeng Jile Cave, and Jinguo Cave, but exploration permits must be obtained according to regulations.



The Central and Southern Shoushan trails join old mining roads with gentler slopes, making them suitable for beginner hikers.



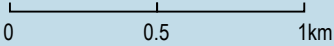
The "Former British Consulate at Dagon" condenses the history of Kaohsiung Harbor and its trade development.



The western Shoushan area, adjacent to the Taiwan Strait, displays geological features such as steep cliffs and marine erosion caves.



Scale



Legend

- Trailhead
- Visitor Center
- Parking Lot
- Restroom
- MRT Station
- Light Rail Station
- TRA Station
- National Highway
- Provincial Highway
- YouBike
- Ferry Station
- Shoushan National Natural Park Range
- Main Road
- Shoushan Fortress Military Control Zone Border
- Mountain Trail
- Railway

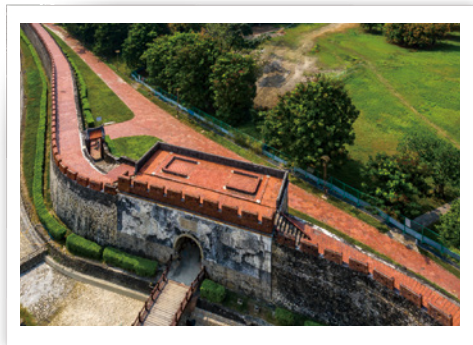
Guishan and Zuoying Old City



#ZuoyingOldCity #MilitaryRelics #LotusPondArea #PathToTheCity

Trail Routes

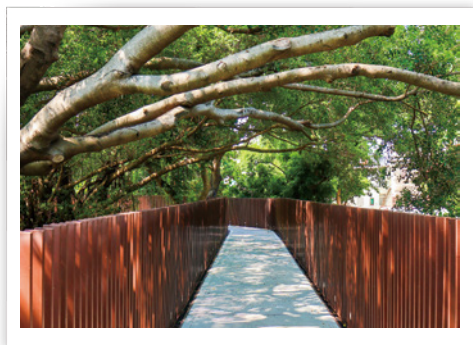
- 📍 Loudingma Trailhead → Big Guishan Wooden Pathway → Old City North Gate (Trailhead)
 - ↳ Little Guishan Wooden Pathway → Path to the City → Old City East Gate



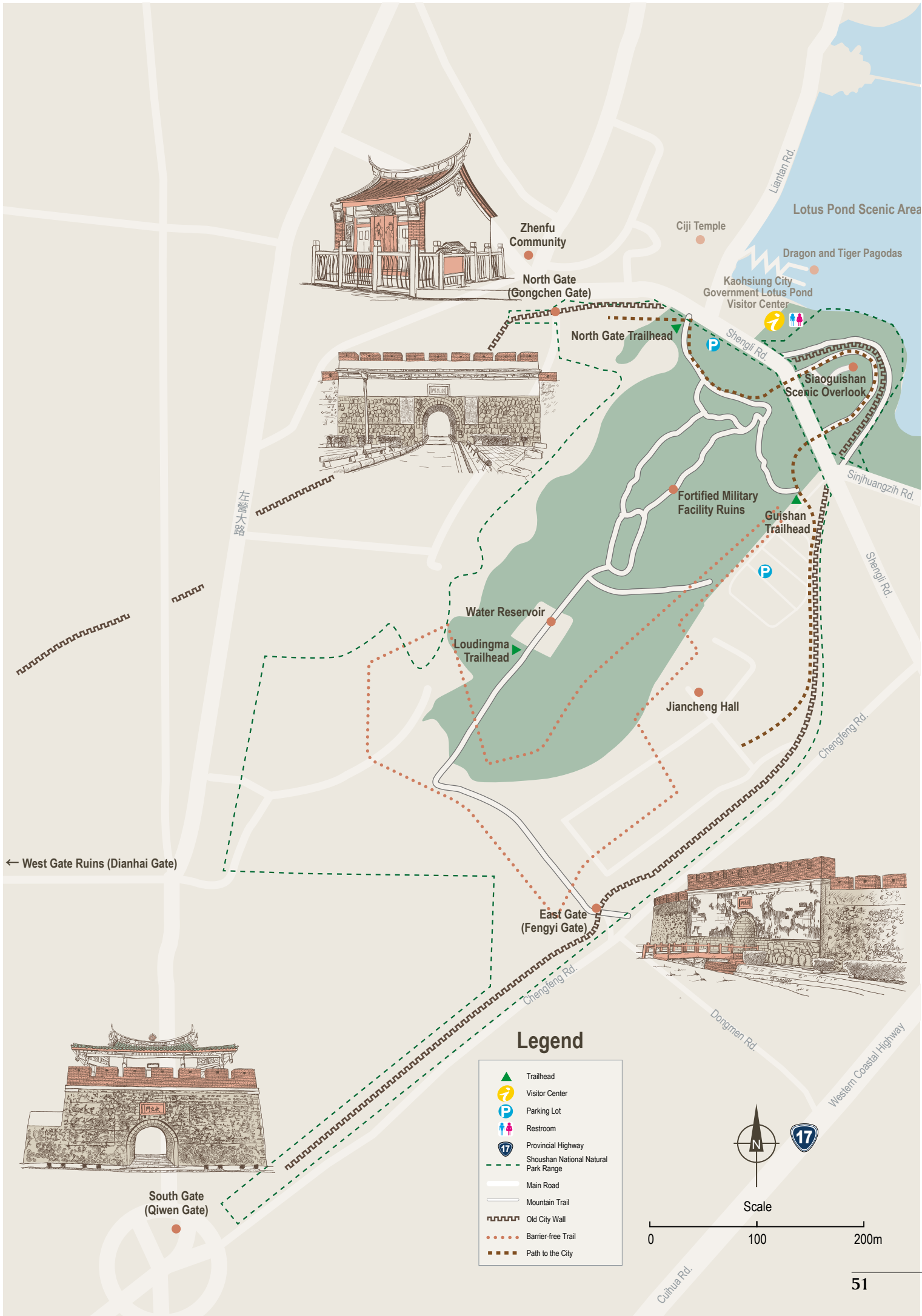
- 📍 The Guishan area contains the remaining two city gate ruins of Zuoying Old City - the East Gate (Fengyi Gate) and the North Gate (Gongchen Gate) – as well as ancient city walls and moats, all of which are national historic sites. They surround the Guishan Grassland and trails, with the South Gate (Qiwen Gate) located at the center of the nearby circular road.



- 📍 From the heights of Guishan, visitors can overlook the panoramic views of Lotus Pond and the old settlements of Zuoying, with military facilities such as bunkers and barracks occasionally visible along the trails.



- 📍 The "Path to the City" is an aerial walkway connecting Big and Small Guishan along the old city wall.



Legend

- Trailhead
- Visitor Center
- Parking Lot
- Restroom
- Provincial Highway
- Shoushan National Natural Park Range
- Main Road
- Mountain Trail
- Old City Wall
- Barrier-free Trail
- Path to the City



Scale

0 100 200m

Banpingshan



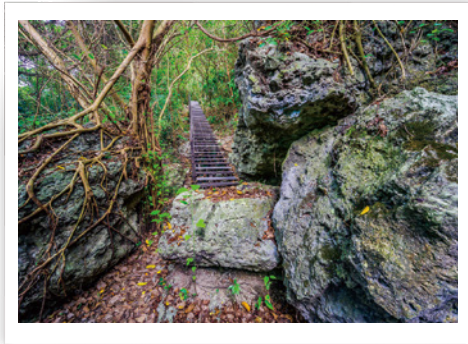
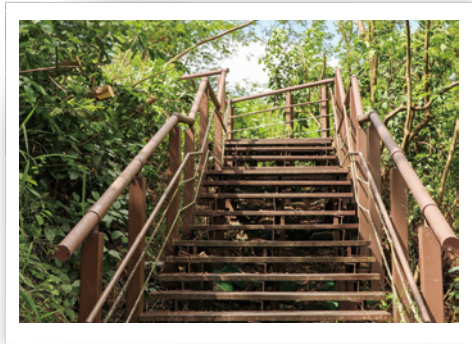
#BanpingLakeWetland #OldMiningArea #MigratingRaptors #HighCliffs

Trail Routes

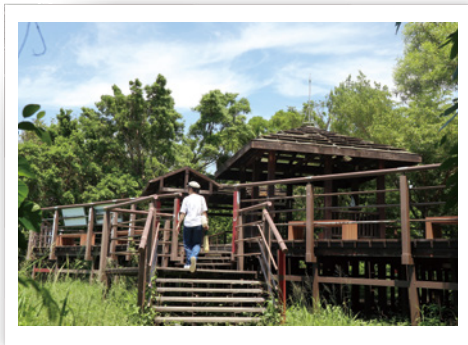
📍 Cuihua Road (South and North) Trailhead, Back Alley Mountain Trailhead ↔ Central Observation Deck



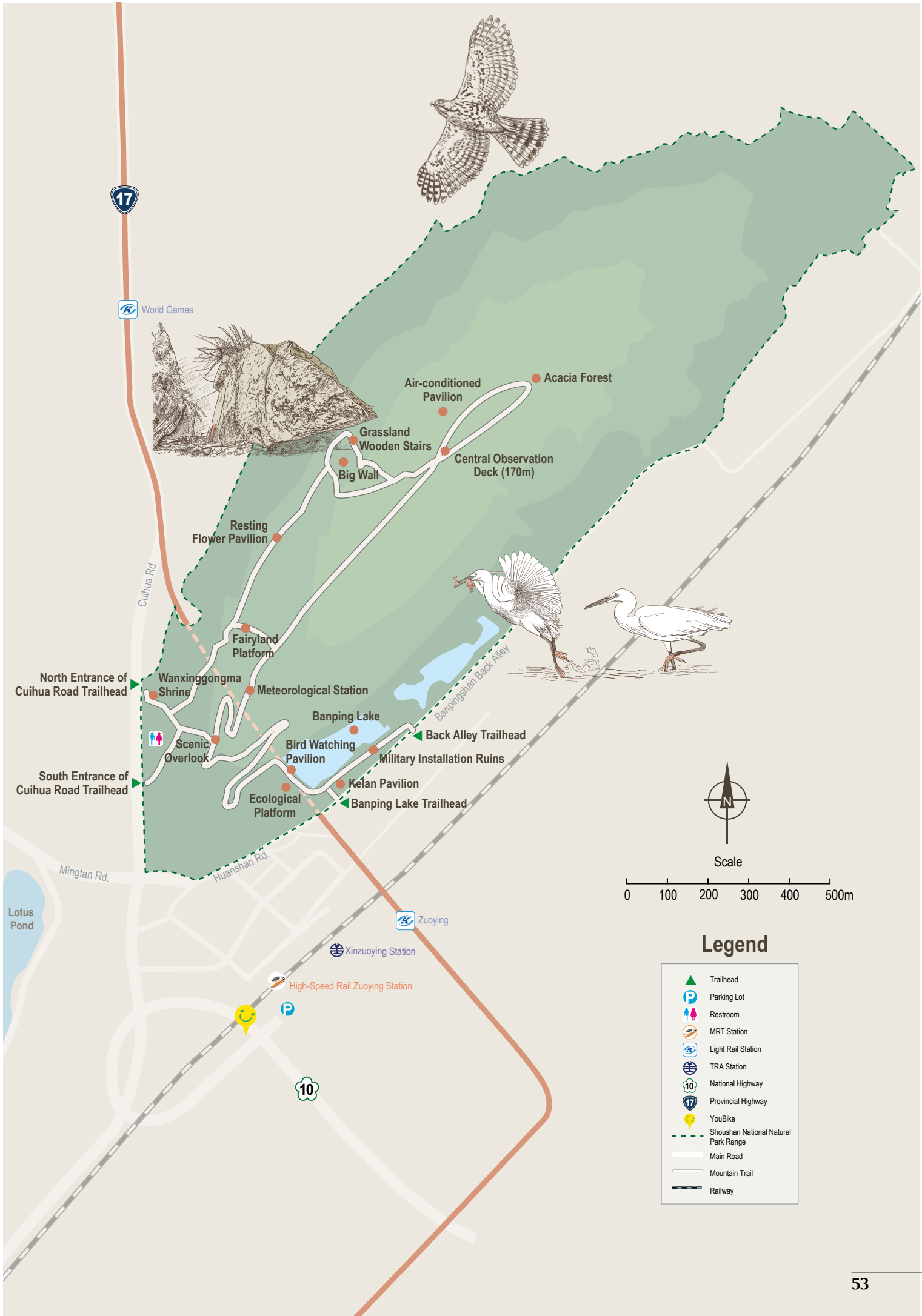
📍 Hiking Banpingshan offers expansive city views: to the south, the Old City of Zuoying and Lotus Pond; to the west, the Taiwan Strait; and to the southeast, the intersection of three rail systems and the Banping Lake Wetland.



📍 Surrounding the Banping Lake Wetland are wooden boardwalks, while the route to the mountain's summit is rugged limestone terrain and must be navigated using caution.



📍 The Central Observation Deck is a great spot for observing resident raptors, particularly during the spring and autumn migrations, when it is one of the best viewing points.



17

World Games

Cuihua Rd.

Acacia Forest
Air-conditioned Pavilion
Central Observation Deck (170m)
Grassland Wooden Stairs
Big Wall

Resting Flower Pavilion

Fairyland Platform

North Entrance of Cuihua Road Trailhead

Wanxinggongma Shrine

Meteorological Station

South Entrance of Cuihua Road Trailhead

Scenic Overlook

Banping Lake

Bird Watching Pavilion

Back Alley Trailhead

Military Installation Ruins

Ecological Platform

Kelan Pavilion

Banping Lake Trailhead

Mingtán Rd.

Huanshan Rd.

Lotus Pond

Zuoying

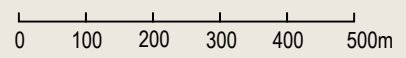
Xinzuoqing Station

High-Speed Rail Zuoying Station

10



Scale



Legend

- Trailhead
- Parking Lot
- Restroom
- MRT Station
- Light Rail Station
- TRA Station
- National Highway
- Provincial Highway
- YouBike
- Shoushan National Natural Park Range
- Main Road
- Mountain Trail
- Railway

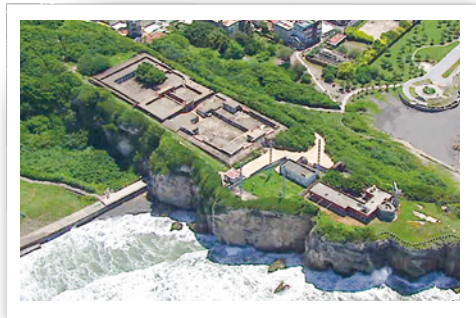


Cihoushan

#LimestoneCliffs #CihouLighthouseAndFortress #TunnelofStars #MaxwellBikePath #TwilightSunset

Trail Routes

📍 Cihoushan Trailhead → Fort, Tunnel of Stars → Cihou Lighthouse → Cihoushan Trailhead



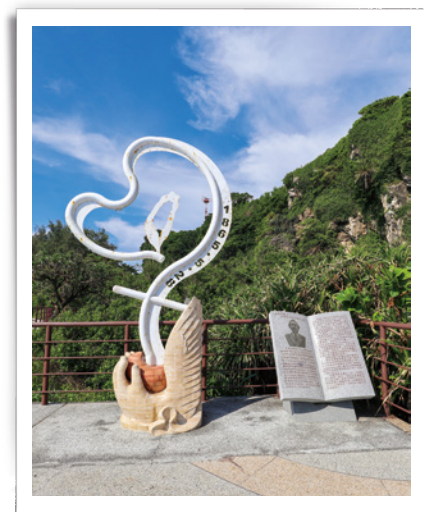
📍 Cihoushan stands prominently outside Kaohsiung Harbor, offering breathtaking views of Sizihwan, Cijin Sandbar, and the Taiwan Strait. The Cihou Fortress and Cihou Lighthouse – are important historic sites situated on the mountain; they serve as testament to its historical rise and fall as a naval defense outpost.



📍 Ferries are the primary public transport for traveling to and from Cijin.



📍 The "Cijin Star Tunnel" was originally a military facility from the Japanese occupation era and has been renovated as a tourist attraction.



📍 The "Cijin Round-Island Bike Path" winds around the coast at the foot of Cihoushan, offering a stunning sunset view in harmony with nature.



Legend

	Trailhead
	Parking Lot
	Restroom
	Bicycle Path
	Shoushan National Natural Park Range
	Main Road



Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park



#GoldenRoosterSundial #GreatGrassland
#FamilyFriendlyActivities

Both phases of Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park feature circular trails that include various pavilions and vast grasslands. The first phase includes numerous key recreational facilities such as a visitor center and library, various sports courts, a multi-functional square, and inclusive play equipment, making it suitable for arranging recreational activities for all age groups, including easy walking, biking tours, picnics, and group outdoor events.



The falling leaves of *Swietenia macrophylla*



Inclusive Playground



Taichung Metropolitan Park

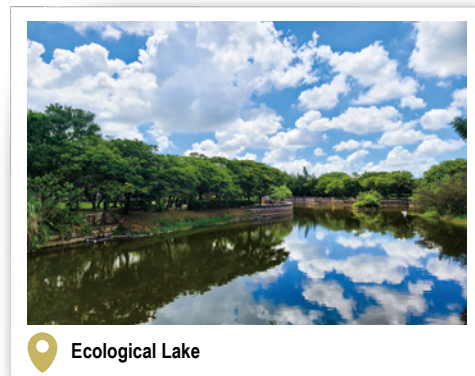


#SeedSundial #DaduPlateau
#EcologicalObservation

Taichung Metropolitan Park boasts diverse scenery and promotes biodiversity through its ecological development on the Dadu Plateau, serving as a natural classroom. Passing by the visitor service center, the park has multiple interconnected paths and features various areas, including an outdoor performance square, a plant observation area, an ecological lake area, a stargazing square, and grasslands, with accessible ramps installed along the trails to provide a friendly environment for all communities.



Lilium formosanum

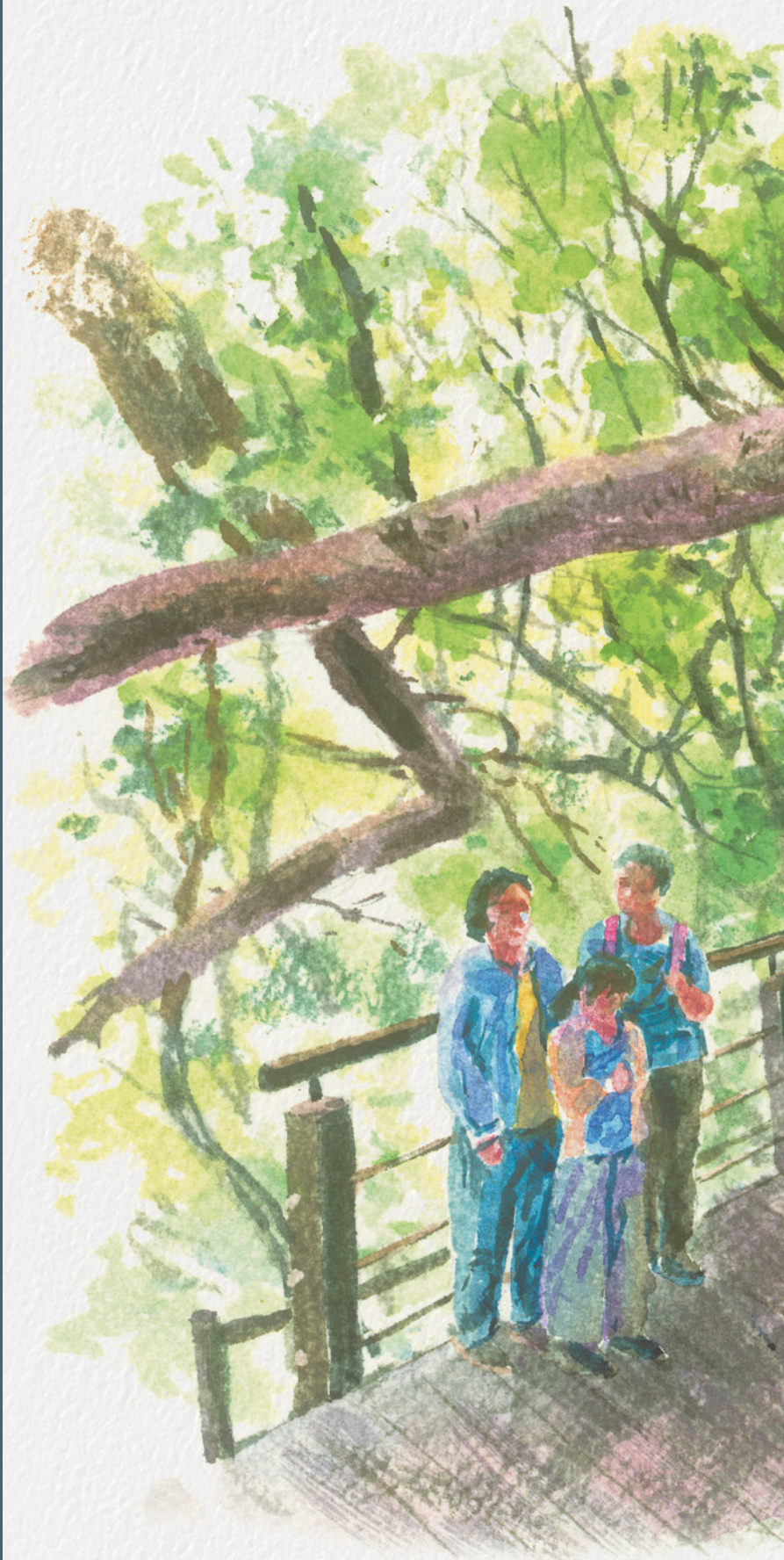


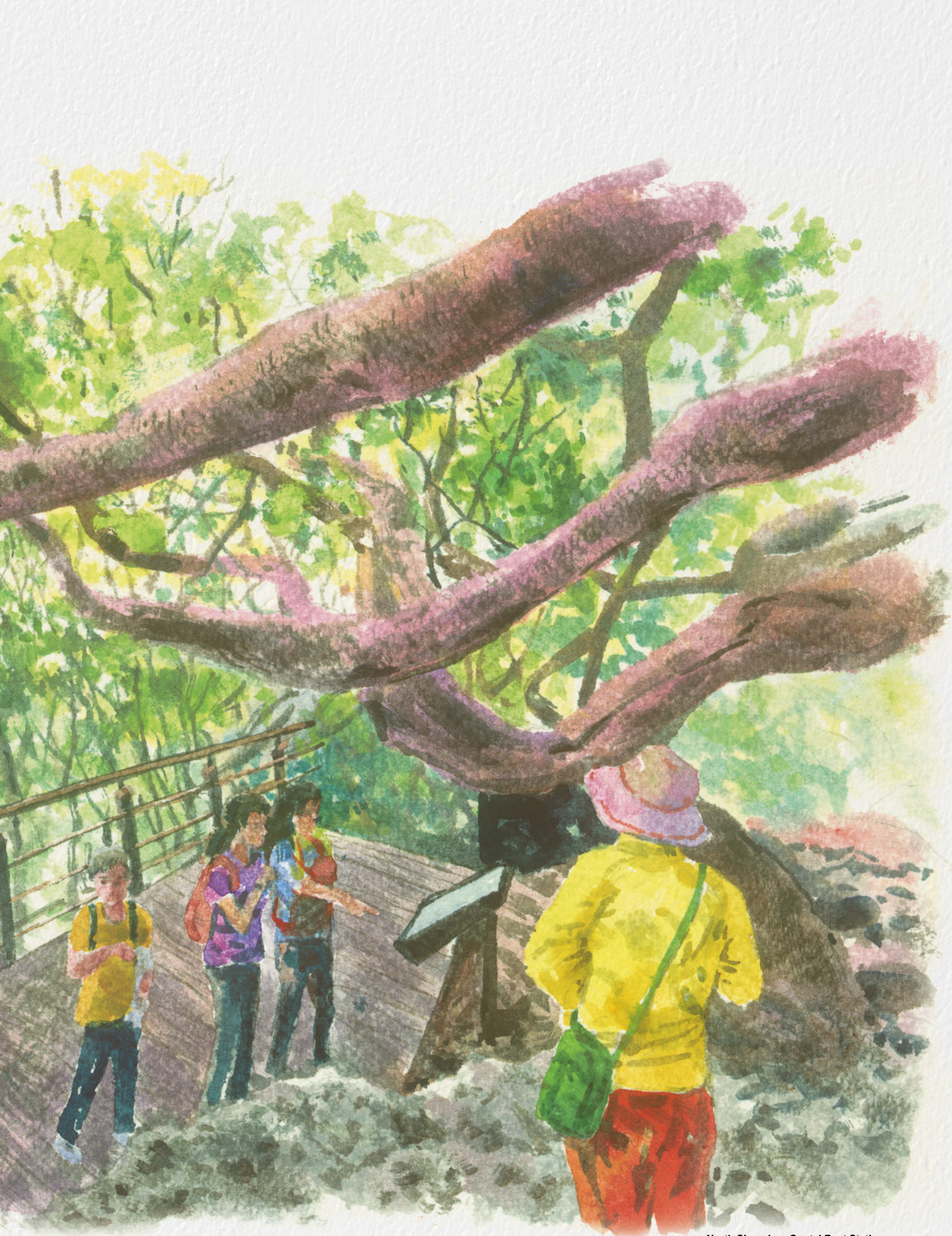
Ecological Lake

Environmental Education

In 2011, Taiwan officially implemented *The Environmental Education Act*, becoming the sixth country in the world to legislate and promote environmental education. National parks and metropolitan parks in Taiwan use environmental education to help the public understand the significance of low mountains, ecological resources, and the relationship between humans and ecosystem. They work together with the community to protect natural treasures within cities, building partnerships with local organizations and collaborating across disciplines to advance environmental education efforts.

The Shoushan National Nature Park Visitor Center was completed in 2017, designed as an ecological museum with a resource display room that integrates environmental education and develops "urban environmental education sites." This initiative promotes low mountain ecological conservation and sustainable development.





North Shoushan Guotai Rest Station

Shoushan Hilly Area School Interprets Natural in the City

Shoushan National Nature Park presents the "Shoushan Hilly Area School" as its environmental education brand, aiming to promote biodiversity and the harmonious development of humans and nature. Through diverse teaching methods, participants are encouraged to reflect on the "human-environment relationship" during activities. The park provides a range of environmental education services, including professional workshops for teachers, outdoor education for students, collaborative curriculum development with local partners, and training sessions for students and volunteers.

The Visitor Center regularly offers environmental education events, ecological film festival, conservation-related special exhibits, and lectures. Both Kaohsiung and Taichung Metropolitan Parks design courses and activities focused on environmental issues and biodiversity for all ages.



Beggar Driving Out The Temple Keeper – Invasive Species Course / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Theme Activity – Magic and Treasures: Exploring Shoushan's Geology / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Special Event for Konjac Season / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Outdoor Education – Shoushan Geology Course: A Tale of Limestone / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Theme Activity – Macaque Nature Exploration Camp on Shoushan / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Market: A Commitment to Sustainable Green Living / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Concert: A Commitment to Sustainable Green Living / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Sustainable food – Reusable Tableware and Rice Wrapped in Macaranga Leaves / Shoushan Hilly Area School

Supported by professional environmental educators and volunteers, the park earned excellence of the Environmental Education Facility Certification in 2018 and 2023. In 2023, the "Environmental Education Partnership Alliance" was formed in collaboration with diverse local partners. Starting in 2024, in response to Net Zero, the park launch the "Sustainable Green Living Series" with NGOs, schools, and local industries, offering the public opportunities to explore the cultures and biodiversity of Shoushan National Nature Park in more sustainable ways.

Shoushan Hilly Area School: People and the Environment

Being close to the city, Shoushan is a perfect spot for people to connect with nature. We hope that through the environmental education activities, the public will gain a deeper understanding of the significance of hilly area and the relationship between humans and the environment.



Theme Activity for the General Public and Families

【Shoushan Hilly Area School】

Macaque Nature Exploration Camp
Magic and Treasures: Exploring Shoushan's Geology
Song of Love Between Mountain and Sea
Exhibition Hall Surprise Night

【Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park】

Spirits of the Night
Adventure in KMP

【Taichung Metropolitan Park】

Tasty Adventures: Exploring the Crops of Dadu Mountain
Expanding the Green in Your Heart – Plant Imprinting Workshop
Journey Through Time with Dadushan Waters
The Secret Base of Dadushan: Cultural and Ecological Exploration
Embrace Nature, Embrace TMP – A Nature Experience



Song of Love Between Mountain and Sea / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Time Travel Journey at Cihoushan / Shoushan Hilly Area School



The Secret Base of Dadu Mountain: Cultural and Ecological Exploration Trip / Taichung Metropolitan Park



Spirits of the Night / Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park



Expanding the Green in Your Heart / Taichung Metropolitan Park



Exhibition Hall Surprise Night / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Rebirth of the Earth / Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park



A Journey Through Time with Dadushan Waters / Taichung Metropolitan Park

Professional Workshop / Special Projects for Organizations

【Shoushan Hilly Area School】

- Seeking Macaque in The Hill Full of Figs
- Time Travel Journey at Cihoushan
- Explore Shoushan with the Friendly Macaque
- Beggar Driving Out The Temple Keeper
- Discover Shoushan's Hidden Magic Stones (Available November to April)

【Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park】

- Earth's Renewal – Urban Park Revitalization
- Green Growth in the City – Ecological Greening Tour

【Taichung Metropolitan Park】

- Echoes of Dadushan – A Walk Through History
- Soaring Over Dadu Plateau –
- Uncovering Military Secrets

- ◎ Target Audience: Government agencies, enterprises, NGOs, the general public, and school teachers.
- ◎ Course Duration: Weekdays, approximately 2-4 hours (applications must be submitted 30 days in advance).

Outdoor Education

【Shoushan Hilly Area School】

Formosan Macaque Course
Invasive Species Course
Cihoushan History Course
Shoushan Geology Course

【Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park】

Little Plant Observers
Meet the Feathered Friends of the Park
The Golden Rooster Tells the Time
Insect Safari of KMP
Exploring the Living Green Hills

【Taichung Metropolitan Park】

Brave Dadushan - Discovering Dadushan's Crops
Tree of Life - Observing Tree Structures
Sustainable Life - Learning Insect Observation Methods
Growing Giants - A Scientific Adventure
A Drop of Soul - Water Resources

- ◎ Target Audience: Elementary, junior high, and high school students, tailored according to course content.
- ◎ Schedule: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during the school year, approximately 5.5 hours (applications must be submitted 30 days in advance).



The Golden Rooster Tells the Time / Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park



Brave Dadushan / Taichung Metropolitan Park



Formosan Macaque Course / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Festival Event for Families – Tree Climbing / Shoushan Hilly Area School

Shoushan National Nature Park Series Activities

- Festival Event for Families
- Ecological Guided Tours
- Special Hiking Event
- Mountaineering Safety Workshop
- Hilly Area Environmental Issues Exhibition
- Annual Screening Program of WildView Taiwan Film Festival
- Other Special Activities

Metropolitan Park Weekend Activities

- Weekend Craft Workshops
- Ecological Education Seminars
- Volunteer Storytelling Sessions
- Family Nature Observation Tours and Regular & Special Events

School Services

Free Applications for Screening and Guiding by Interpreters:

- Audio-visual Publications from National Nature Park Headquarters
- "WildView Taiwan Film Festival" Ecological Documentaries

- ◎ Target Audience: Schools at all levels in Kaohsiung City.
- ◎ Activity Schedule: Weekdays during the school year (applications must be submitted 30 days in advance).



Festival Event for Families – Crab Seeing in Moon Festival / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Plants and Life – Plant Distillation and DIY Living / Shoushan Hilly Area School



Eagle Watching on Whaleback Mountain (Banpingshan) / Shoushan Hilly Area School

Service Information

【Shoushan National Nature Park Visitor Center】

The Environmental Education and Administrative Service Park of Shoushan National Nature Park, the original site "Shou Gang Military Camp," features a frame structure that retains the early military buildings. The exterior walls are adorned with coral stones abandoned when flood detention ponds were excavated, echoing the imagery of the old city walls of Zuoying. The stairs are designed to reflect the bridle path on the old city wall, integrating historical characteristics into the park. Services at the visitor center include accessible exhibition space with guided tours, multimedia presentations, weekend challenges, environmental education activities, lectures, and recreational information providing.



Shoushan National Nature Park Visitor Center

【Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park Visitor Center】

The Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park offers a variety of visitor services: regular film screenings, outdoor guided tours, event venue rentals, and quiet reading and resting areas. It also hosts regular activities for parents and children, including nature observation, lectures, exhibitions, and ecological games.



Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park Visitor Center

【Taichung Metropolitan Park Visitor Service Center】

The Taichung Metropolitan Park Visitor Service Center provides activity consultations and reservation services. The exhibition room displays information about park resources and features a flexible exhibition space, a multimedia room for regular ecological film screenings, and an environmental education room that occasionally hosts parent-child activities.



Taichung Metropolitan Park Visitor Center

Visitor Center	Add / Tel	Facilities	Service Hours
Shoushan National Nature Park Visitor Center	No.301, Wanshou Rd., Gushan Dist., Kaohsiung City 804005, Taiwan (R.O.C.) +886-7-5313001 ext. 401	Special Exhibition Room, Multimedia Briefing Room, Resources Exhibition Room (Information desk)	Tuesday ~ Sunday 09:00~17:00 (Closed on Mondays and Lunar New Year's Eve) (If the museum is opened consecutively during consecutive holidays, the closure will be postponed.)
Kaohsiung Metropolitan Park Visitor Center	No. 20, Demin Rd., Nanzi Dist., Kaohsiung City 811229, Taiwan (R.O.C.) +886-7-3656103	Visitor Center, Activity Center	
Taichung Metropolitan Park Visitor Service Center	No. 140, Ln. 1215, Duhuiyuan Rd., Xitun Dist., Taichung City 407001, Taiwan (R.O.C.) +886-4-24612483	Indoor Management Service Center, Exhibition Room, Audiovisual Room	

Online Services

- ◎ Official website of National Nature Park: <https://www.nnp.gov.tw/>
- ◎ Online application system for National Nature Park: <https://nnpapply.nnp.gov.tw/park/np>
(Access the online application systems for Kaohsiung and Taichung Metropolitan Park via the link at the top left of this page)
- ◎ Available Services:



Official website of
National Nature Park



Online Application
System



Guided Tours

Non-profit organizations with 15 or more members can apply for free guided tours 15 days in advance.

The available topics include: General interpretation, Cultural and historical insights, and Plant phenology

- ✔ Shoushan National Nature Park Visitor Center
- ✔ Northern Shoushan ✔ Southern Shoushan
- ✔ Banpingshan ✔ Cihoushan
- ✔ Guishan and Zuoying Old City
- ✔ Kaohsiung / Taichung Metropolitan Park



Film Screenings

Non-profit organizations with 5 or more members can reserve a film screening 15 days in advance.

- Films released by the National Nature Park Headquarters
- Annual *WildViewTaiwan Film Festival* documentary on ecology and the environment



Caving and Rock Climbing

✔ **Caving:** Available from November 1 to April 30 each year, with applications submitted 90 to 5 days prior, guided by limestone cave conservation patrol personnel.

✔ **Rock Climbing:** Open year-round, applications must be submitted 90 to 3 days in advance.



Professional Workshop

✔ **Outdoor education, school services, and professional workshop** can be booked 90 to 30 days in advance, with fees based on course plans and actual needs.



The National Nature Park is:

A vital cradle, naturing a system that integrates shallow-mountain natural conservation and cultural heritages.

A continous foundation, fostering the harmonious coexistence shared prosperity of nature and humanity.



We aspire to turn the entire city into an
"invisible, borderless nature park."





National Park Law

Prohibited Activities Regulations in the Article 13 of *National Park Law*

Amended Date: December 8, 2010

1. Burning of vegetation or setting fires to clear land;
2. Hunting animals or catching fish;
3. Polluting water or air;
4. Picking or removing flowers or other vegetation;
5. Carving into or writing on trees, bark, stones or signs;
6. Discarding fruit skins, paper or any other materials;
7. Driving outside of designated areas;
8. Any other conduct prohibited by the national park competent authority.



Ministry of the Interior
Laws and Regulations
Retrieving System

Prohibited Activities Regulations in the Domain of *Shoushan National Nature Park*

Amended Date: July 3, 2019

1. It is prohibited to collect fossils, stalagmites, stalactites, coral rocks, and other rare rocks.
2. Peddling or setting up vending stalls in the park is prohibited.
3. It is prohibited to carry hunting equipment capable of capturing, killing, or harming wildlife into the park.
4. The hanging or placement of road signs, trail markings, notice boards, sports facilities, tables and chairs, and other objects which could disrupt the landscape is prohibited.
5. Any lighting of firecrackers, fireworks, combustibles, or cooking is prohibited.
6. Any building of pergolas or the other illegal structures, and paving roads are prohibited.
7. Littering of plastic bottles, polystyrene, other plastic or metal products, trash, and other objects, is prohibited.
8. Destruction of public property and facilities is prohibited.
9. It is prohibited to feed the rock macaques and the other wild animals.
10. Feeding of stray animals and abandonment of cats, dogs, and other pet animals are prohibited.
11. Pets are prohibited from entering the general area (Control 1, Control 2) and the special landscape area (Special 1).
12. It is prohibited to smoke inside the park (except in smoking areas designated by relevant management units).
13. It is prohibited to ride bicycles in areas outside of designated routes, or to speed in designated routes or force pedestrians to give way.
14. Unauthorized cave exploration and partaking in cave exploration in areas outside of the permitted zone are prohibited.
15. It is prohibited to rock climb outside of the designated zone or to establish rock climbing facilities in the park without permission.
16. Except for populated areas, it is prohibited to participate in political activities and actions with the potential to cause social disputes or conflict.



The Line Sky



Ecological Interpretation of Shoushan National Nature Park



Chalcophaps indica

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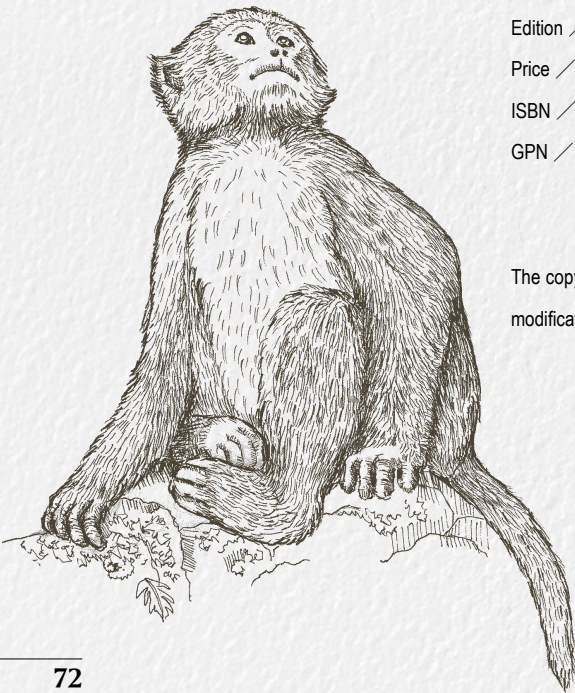
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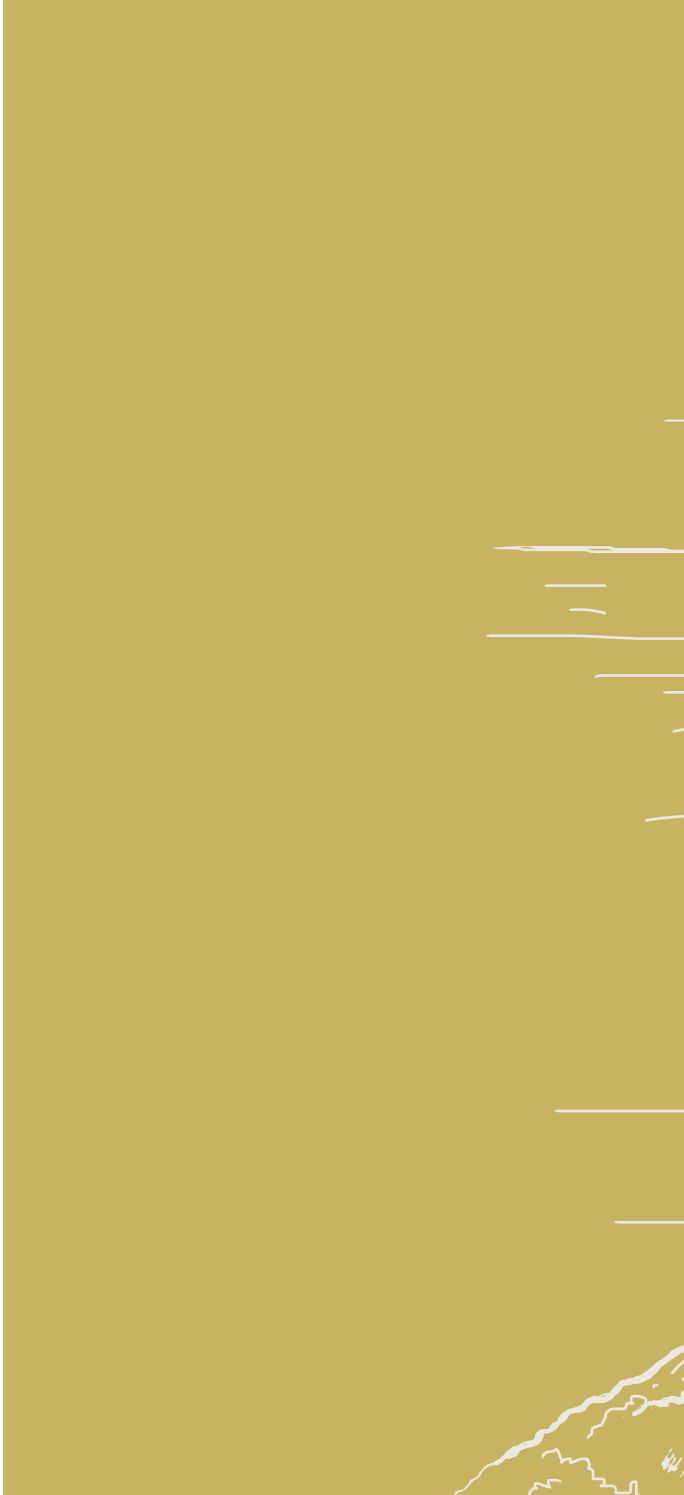
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