

High mountains treks:

I. A trek along the Shihmen Mt. Trail (time requirement: 7-8 h)

Taroko Visitor Center --- Siaofongkou --- Shihmen Mt. Trail

(Hwy. No. 8, 198 km)

(Hwy. No. 14A, 36.5 km)

(Hwy. No. 14A, 33.5 km)

Brief introduction to the trek: Driving from the Taroko Visitor Center to Siaofongkou requires 3-4 h. From Siaofongkou to the trailhead of Shihmen Mt. Trail, there is an uphill highway for 3 km. Shihmen Mt. has an elevation of 3237 m. The length of the trail is 750 m. The trail follows a slowly ascending path, and to and fro the trail needs 20 to 40 min. This is one of the most accessible trails among the famous Hundred Peaks of Taiwan. The trail is paved with gravels and wooden planks, and on both sides of the trail there are meadows of Yushan canes (*Yushania niitakayamensis*). En route, you can see some old Taipower Co. cables and the abandoned bases of cement power-poles. The mountain peak has an elevation of 3237 m above the sea level, and there is a third class triangulation point benchmark using global positioning system satellites there. The peak has an unobstructed field of view, where you can see the Cilai peak strings, Hehuan peaks, Nanhu peaks, and the fully exposed Tacih Jili River valley. Those summer blossoms with delicate small shapes and vibrant colors are some of the choices you can make enjoying the alpine flora. Classification: grade 2 (grade 3 in wintertime). Hardness: ☉

Brief introduction to scenic spots:

Siaofongkou: This is where the park administration's Hehuan Mountain Service Station locates. The station is in charge of the facility management and maintenance for the section from Sinbaiyang to Jihyuanjhuang, as well as the pertinent interpretive and information service to the visitors. Most of the park's stations, including the Administrative Center of Taroko Park Headquarters, Buluowan Service Station, Lyushui Service Station, Su-hua Service Station, are located on the eastern part of the park premises. The establishment of the Hehuan Mountain Service Station serves to fortify the service management for the western half of the park. In the future, the station is expected to perform the functions of a first line handling station in cases of save and rescue missions and forest fire prevention. The exhibition hall of the Service station is now completed. It was opened to the public on November 28th, 2002.