

Taroko National Park: Park Access Permit Applications

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is a Mountain Access Permit? What is a Park Access Permit?

Applying for a Mountain Access Permit (also known as a Mountain Entry Permit) allows the applicant and their team to access mountainous areas that are within the restricted area. The Mountain Access Permits are managed by the National Police Agency. Sometimes, these areas overlap with the Ecological Protection Area of some of Taiwan's National Parks. A second Park Access Permit (also known as a Park Entry Permit) is needed to access overlapped areas. In some special cases, Taroko National Park has an existing agreement with the Xiulin County Police Department to waive the Mountain Access Permit requirement for certain trails. The Park Access Permits are jointly managed by the high-mountain National Parks of Taiwan (Sheipa, Taroko, Yushan).

2. Do I need a permit for my trail itinerary?

On our [website](#), only trails listed under "Mountaineering Trails" may require one or more permits. Trails listed under "Scenic Trails" or "Hiking Trails", in addition to all Scenic Spots require no permits whatsoever. Specifically (not exhaustive):

Both Park Permit and Mountain Permits required:

- Mt. Nanhu
- Mt. Nanhu – Mt. Zhongyangjian (North Section 1)
- North Section 2
- Mt. Shuan – Mt. Lingming
- Mt. Shuan (single day ascent)
- North Section 1 to 2
- Mt. Bilu – Mt. Yangtuo
- Mt. Bilu (single day ascent)
- Mt. Qilai Main/North Peak
- Mt. Qilai Range
- Mt. Qilai South Peak
- Qilai East Ridge
- Other (non-traditional) routes

Park Access Permit only:

- Mt. Yangtuo
- Mt. Qingshui
- Zhuilu Old Road

Mountain Access Permit only:

- Mt. Hehuan North Peak
- Mt. Hehuan West Peak
- Mt. Nanhua (outside Park premises)

No permits needed:

- Mt. Hehuan Main Peak
- Mt. Hehuan East Peak
- Mt. Hehuanjian
- Mt. Shimen (Main and North Peaks)
- Mt. Pingfeng

Alternatively, please visit our website for a list of which trails need which permits:

<https://www.taroko.gov.tw/en/Announcements/MountainPermits>

3. How can I apply for a Park Access Permit?

You can make an application through the Online Application for Taiwan National Park Permits website. From this link, you can find out the application window dates by using the widget located on the lower right of the webpage. For all routes, the application window opens 30 days before the intended hiking start date. Applicants can prepare a draft of their application before this date, which is saved on the system for up to 7 full days after the draft was last modified. The system accepts applications daily from 07:00 to 23:00 in the order which they are received: https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/en/apply_1.aspx

4. When can I apply for a Park Access Permit?

Most mountaineering routes, as well as Zhuilu Old Road, require advanced application before departure. The application window varies by route:

7-45 days before entry:

- Nenggao Historic Trail (Tianchi Lodge)

7-30 days before entry:

- Mt. Nanhu
- Mt. Nanhu – Mt. Zhongyangjian (North Section 1)
- North Section 2
- Mt. Shuan – Mt. Lingming
- Mt. Shuan (single day ascent)
- North Section 1 to 2
- Mt. Bilu – Mt. Yangtou
- Mt. Qilai Main/North Peak
- Mt. Qilai Range
- Mt. Qilai South Peak
- Qilai East Ridge
- Mt. Qingshui

- Other (non-traditional) routes

3-30 days before entry:

- Mt. Yangtou (single day ascent)
- Mt. Bilu (single day ascent)

1-30 days before entry:

Zhuilu Old Road*

* The application window time for Zhuilu Old Road is before 15 pm the day before entering on Tuesday to Friday and before 15 pm on Friday for Saturday to Monday entry.

Please note that some routes have a quota on the number of hikers per day (see [No. 8](#)) and so early applications are encouraged to guarantee entry. Applicants can use the widget on the lower right section of the Online Applications for Taiwan National Park Permits homepage to calculate the dates of the application window given the intended hiking dates: <https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/en/index.aspx>

Please also note that the Nenggao Historic Trail is outside the premises of Taroko National Park, and all applications for Tianchi Lodge are handled by the National Forestry Bureau (application in Chinese only). You will, however, need to apply a Park Access Permit if you intend to summit Mt. Qilai South Peak. Please see [No. 19](#) for more information on applying for the Nenggao Historic Trail.

5. If I already received a Park Access Permit, how do I apply for a mountain entry permit?

After receiving your Park Access Permit, you may need to apply for a Mountain Access Permit. Please see [No. 2](#) for specific information on which trails need which permits.

You can apply for the Mountain Access Permit in three ways:

- A. If you have already received your Park Entry Permit, you can automatically transfer your details from the Park Permit application to the Police Mountain Permit application. This is the most common method. To do this, please go on our website to: Online Application > Check Status/Print Permit/Apply for Mountain Permit > [Enter in your details] > Apply Mountain (Police) Permit. This option should be the second of four, on the bottom of the main column. The processing time for the application should be a few working days. This options is only available 5-30 working days before the starting date of your hike.
- B. You can obtain a Mountain Access Permit in-person by visiting a police station nearby the trail entrance. This can be done any day up to the day of the hike, and should take 10-20 minutes. Note that most police stations are not open 24 hours, so it is best to check their opening hours before arriving. Please visit our website for a list of which police stations can process which trails:
<https://www.taroko.gov.tw/en/Announcements/MountainPermits>
- C. You can apply for the Police Mountain Permit online by yourself. The application can only be completed in Chinese, and the processing time for the application should be a few working days. This option is only available 5-30 days before the starting date of your hike. Registration for the Mountain Access Permit is done online through this link: <https://nv2.npa.gov.tw/NM103-604Client/>

6. How much does a Park Access Permit cost? How much does a Mountain Access Permit cost?

Both Park Access Permits and Mountain Access Permits and their registrations are free of charge. All other areas of the park (scenic spots, scenic trails, hiking trails, mountaineering trails) are similarly free of charge. However, a ticket (NT\$200) is required to enter Zhuilu Old Road. Please consult our Fees website for more details: <https://www.taroko.gov.tw/en/Announcements/Fees>

7. Can I apply for more than one trail at the same time?

Applicants are allowed to make as many applications as they wish, as long as dates do not overlap. For example, the following is allowed:

- Two separate applications for Zhuilu Old Trail for 01 January and 02 January
- Two separate applications for Mt. Nanhu for 01-04 January and 05-08 January
- One application for Mt. Nanhu for 01-04 January and one application for Zhuilu Old Trail for 05 January

Important: Please remember to cancel the applications that you do not end up using as soon as possible, so that the freed places may be offered to others on the waiting list. Please see [No. 8](#) for an explanation of how the waiting list works.

8. Why are there quotas for each trail? What happens when the limit is reached? How does the waitlist work?

- (1) The Park Headquarters have implemented quotas for several trails, which limits the number of hikers to certain areas every day in accordance with subparagraph 10 of Article 8 of the National Park Act: “Ecological protection area: refers to the area where the natural biotic communities shall be stringently protected from development and shall be used only for scientific research.” The quotas are set in accordance to the ecological fragility of each area, and/or takes into account existing facilities and camping space in the area. Therefore, quotas are set to (a) protect the fragile ecological environment, and (b) to maintain a high quality of activities in each area.
- (2) Quotas differ by route and by type of day. For most routes, the quota for non-holidays (Monday to Thursday) is less than the quota for holidays (Friday to Sunday and public holidays). For example: (a) Qilai Mountain Area: 40 people on an ordinary day and 60 people at weekend/holiday time; (b) Mt. Nanhu: 60 people on an ordinary day and 100 people at weekend and holiday times; (c) Zhuilu Old Road: 96 people ordinary time, 156 people at weekend and holiday time. A full list of quotas can be found on the Taroko Trails Availability page of our website: https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/en/bed_5.aspx
- (3) Every route allows up to 10 teams on the waitlist for each route each day. When a route is fully booked, the system will automatically register applicants on the waitlist. If an already-approved party cancels their application for that day and the number of freed places is equal or more than the number of people in the first team on the standby list, the system will automatically move the first team on the waitlist to within the quota. If an already-approved party cancels their application for that day and the number of freed places is less than the number of people in the first team on the standby list, the system will automatically contact the first team on the waitlist by email informing them that places are available and that they can modify the number of persons on their team to fit the available freed places. If the notified team does not take the places within two days, their application will automatically be cancelled and the places will be offered to the next team on the waitlist. The waitlist expires according to the time limit for

application for each route (see [No. 4](#) for the specific application windows of each route).

9. How do I apply for space in a mountain cabin? How is space allocated? Is there a waiting list?

(1) To apply for a mountain cabin bed online, the applicant selects the relevant mountain cabin and the system will automatically allocate a bed in accordance with application time, reference number and approval situation.

(2) Bed standby: The number of beds does not always equal the quota for its respective route. If the applicant applies for a bed when the beds in each cabin on the specific day are already fully booked, the applicant will need to camp near the cabin. If beds become available because of cancellation by another team, the system will allocate the available beds to teams on the standby list in the order of their application time. The waitlist for cabin space functions similarly to the waitlist for trail quotas (See [No. 8\(3\)](#) for a full explanation of how the waitlist works). Standby time ends one day before the date of team departure.

10. Why do I have to fill in the name of someone who will stay behind (an Emergency Coordinator) when my team climbs? Why do they need to stay behind?

The Emergency Coordinator refers to a close friend or family member who does not hike with the team and are responsible to keep in constant contact with the team to monitor their progress. If the team encounters difficulties and needs help or rescue, the emergency coordinator will be able to notify the authorities immediately. Although not required for the Park Access Permit application, those who will also need to obtain a Mountain Access Permit will need to provide an emergency coordinator that is a Taiwanese Citizen that has a local and contactable phone number (please see [No. 5](#) for instructions on how to apply for a Mountain Access Permit).

11. What is the difference between an Emergency Coordinator and an Emergency Contact?

An Emergency Contact is the team member's next of kin. The Emergency Coordinator refers to a close friend or family member who does not hike with the team and are responsible to keep in constant contact with the team to monitor their progress (see [No. 10](#)). The emergency contact and emergency coordinator can be the same person if they are also the next of kin for one or more of the team members.

12. Can I apply to hike solo (i.e. by myself)?

Taroko National Park accepts solo-hiking applications at all times of the year (including the winter season). If you would like to make a solo-hiking application, you will need to complete and attach the "Letter of Undertaking for Solo Climbing in the Taroko National Park Ecological Protection Area and Other Restricted

Mountain Area” form with your application:

<https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/NationPark/manasystem/news/files/news/af6d8cb0-ab60-42ef-9c08-82f0061c1397.pdf>

13. When is “winter season”? How do I apply to hike within the winter season?

In December of each year, each National Park will announce the dates of their respective “winter season”. During this period, applicants will need to complete and upload both pages of the “Climbing Safety Affidavit and Equipment Checklist” with their application. Applicants are responsible for bringing the appropriate winter mountaineering equipment with them on the hike:

[https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/NationPark/manasystem/news/files/news/20181203085018022_20181129102503437_%e7%99%bb%e5%b1%b1%e5%ae%89%e5%85%a8%e7%b7%9a%e4%b8%8a%e5%88%87%e7%b5%90%e3%80%88%e5%90%ab%e9%9b%aa%e5%ad%a3%e3%80%89%e8%88%87%e8%a3%9d%e5%82%99%e6%aa%a2%e6%9f%a5%e8%a1%a8\(%e8%8b%b1%e6%96%87\).docx](https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/NationPark/manasystem/news/files/news/20181203085018022_20181129102503437_%e7%99%bb%e5%b1%b1%e5%ae%89%e5%85%a8%e7%b7%9a%e4%b8%8a%e5%88%87%e7%b5%90%e3%80%88%e5%90%ab%e9%9b%aa%e5%ad%a3%e3%80%89%e8%88%87%e8%a3%9d%e5%82%99%e6%aa%a2%e6%9f%a5%e8%a1%a8(%e8%8b%b1%e6%96%87).docx)

14. Why was my Park Access Permit application rejected?

Park Access Permit applications may be rejected if the itinerary does not correspond with the route category, if the itinerary is deemed unfeasible or surpassing the team’s abilities, or if those on the waitlist are unable to fill in opened spaces within the quota. Rejected applications will be accompanied by a detailed explanation. Please see [No. 8](#) for an explanation of how applications on the waitlist may be rejected.

Applicants may be notified either by email or by phone if their details are incomplete (e.g. if the applicant’s phone number is the same phone number as their emergency contact) or if the proposed itinerary needs justification of hiking ability. In this case, please modify your application in accordance with the specific requests, and re-send the application back for processing.

15. What do I do once my Park Access Permit is approved?

Applicants will be notified via email when the Park Access Permit application is approved. Applicants must then bring a copy of the permit with them to the trail for possible inspection by the sentries and/or volunteer rangers on duty: https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/en/apply_3.aspx

16. My Park Access Permit application has been approved, but I can’t make the trip. How can I cancel my permit?

If you cannot make the trip after your Park Access Permit application has been approved, please cancel your application using the online application system before the system closes for the specified dates of your application. This is to give the opportunity to those on the waitlist to take your team’s place. Alternatively,

you can also cancel your application by phoning the Park Entry Permit Applications Office during office hours, the details of which can be found on the footer of the online application system website:

<https://npm.cpami.gov.tw/en/index.aspx>

Applications can be cancelled for the whole group or individuals (excluding the team leader). If applications are not cancelled according to the regulations, the team leader and the applicant (if they are not the same person) will be unable to make another application for a period of 6 months.

17. My Park Access Permit application has been approved; can I change the members of my team or the date of entry?

After a Park Access Permit application has already been approved; the date and personnel cannot be changed or added. Small changes (e.g. mistakes in spelling, birthdates, numbers) can be made by contacting the Park Entry Permit Applications Office. The application can be cancelled (for the whole team or for individuals); those who wish to be added to the team must make a separate application.

18. What are the procedures when adverse weather is predicted for the dates of my hike?

If adverse weather, natural disasters, or other emergency situations are predicted (i.e. typhoons, bushfires, landslides, etc.), the Park Headquarters will announce contingency plans to restrict access. All applicants will be notified by text message of the change in situation. Permits granted access during that period will be deemed void (ineffective). If your team is already in the mountains when contingency plans are announced, please cooperate with the responding units, and follow instructions to either (a) evacuate the mountain area, or to (b) temporarily stay at a safe location until inclement conditions have passed.

19. Are permits needed for Qilai South Peak and Mt. Nanhua?

Mt. Nanhua is outside the premises of Taroko National Park and so a Park Access Permit is not required. However, a Mountain Access Permit must be obtained in advance.

Mt. Qilai South Peak lies within the premises of Taroko National Park and so a Park Access Permit, in addition to a Mountain Access Permit, are both required.

Please note that lodging for this route (Tianchi Cabin) is normally done by a lottery process through the National Forestry Bureau: <https://tconline.forest.gov.tw/>

20. How do I get to Zhuilu Old Road? Is public transport available?

The entrance of Zhuilu Old Road is opposite the Zhuilu Suspension Bridge, at the entrance of Yanzikou (Swallow Grotto): <https://goo.gl/maps/eRZ2U7pv3n72>

- (1) For those who are driving: the entrance of Zhuilu Old Road is located at the 178.8 km marker on Provincial Highway 8. This is located about 20 minutes driving time westward of the Taroko National Park Visitor Center. Roadside parking is available at Jinheng Park inside the Swallow Grotto (Yanzikou) Trail, or near the Xipan (helmet checkout) Service Station.
- (2) For those who are taking public transport: Buses #[1126](#), #[1133](#), #[1133A](#), #[1141](#) operated by Hualien Bus Company, and Bus #[302](#) operated by Taroko Bus Company will stop at the entrance of Zhuilu Old Road (bus stop [Yanzikou](#)).

Please note that, due to the higher probability of bad weather occurring in the afternoon, entrance to Zhuilu Old Road is restricted to between 7:00 am and 10:00 am only. Hikers are recommended (but not required to) bring a safety helmet with them to the trail in case of rockfall. Helmets can be borrowed free of charge from Xipan Service Station(at 179.3 km on Provincial Highway No. 8), located 10-15 minutes downhill of the Zhuilu Old Road trail entrance: <https://goo.gl/maps/8FKxsu4m77s>