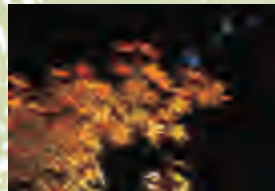


布洛灣 Buluowan

Buluowan was once inhabited by the indigenous Taroko (Truku) people, and the name means "tracking prey land" in their language.

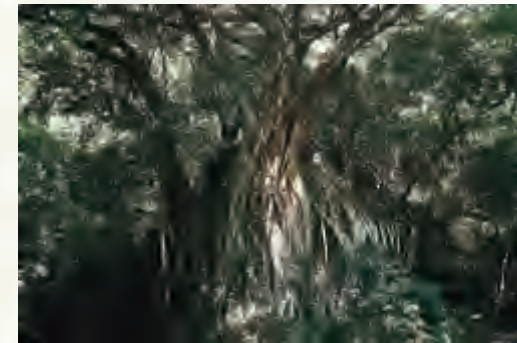
The Buluowan Recreation Area

The road from Central Cross Island Highway to Buluowan begins at 180 Km marker near by the Sipan Tunnel, a point almost equidistant from Taroko National Park Headquarters and Tiansiang, about 10 km in either direction. The road winds up the mountain for about two kilometers. Buluowan was once inhabited by the indigenous Taroko (Truku) people, and the name means "tracking prey land" in their language. Buluowan is comprised of two large, level river terraces that extend out from the sheer mountain flanks 160 meters above the Liwu River. At 370 meters above sea level, Buluowan faces the Liwu River to the north and adjoins Ta Mountain on the south. The slight rise in elevation and the surrounding mountains provide Buluowan with a lovely climate. The mean annual temperature is 21.5°C (71°F). The terraces abound with life and their accessibility makes this an excellent place for nature observation. There are plants typical to sub-tropical broad-leaf forests such as Bishopwood, Large-leaved Machilus, Large-leaved Nanmu, Fruit Fig Tree, and the Formosa Sugar Palm. The forest is also a habitat for animals and insects such as the Formosan Macaque, and Flying Squirrels and more than twenty species of birds.



Meander Core and River Terrace

The Buluowan Area was long ago the channel of the Liwu River. When mountainsides collapsed downstream blocked the river, a lake was formed. The slowed flow of water resulted in large deposits of gravels and mud. Eventually the landslide-dammed lake filled with water and the overflow cut through the natural dam forming a newer, shorter course. Further uplifting and deposits resulted in the meander core and the upper and lower river terraces we see today.



Strangler Figs

The trees known as "Strangler Figs" are a peculiar member of the Ficus or Moraceae family. Their aerial roots reach out and cling to rocks or trees in its surrounding area. The Strangler Fig propagates with the help of birds whose droppings on other trees contain undigested seeds. Gradually the roots of these wandering plants embrace their host-tree and gain strength from the sunlight and nutrients that would otherwise be used by their host. Eventually the Strangler Fig will live up to its name, killing its host, and taking its place in the forest.



Endemic Plants

Buluowan is the center for endemic plant conservation in Taroko National Park. A greenhouse is used to conserve plants such as Formosa Lily, Taiwan Hypericum, Spider Lily and Koidzumi Pyracantha etc. Some of plants will be restored to their native habitat later on. Many of these endemic plants have attractive flowers and fruit, white, yellow, orange, or red and augment the scenery throughout the year.



Cultural Heritage

Prehistory

Buluowan terrace is a microcosm of cultural development in Taiwan- from the prehistoric people of more than a thousand years ago, to the indigenous Taroko, and to the Han-Chinese people today. The deepest excavations have uncovered artifacts that date back about 1200 years. Pottery shards and stone tools are the most commonly found relics. Prehistoric people in Buluowan belonged to the latest culture of the Neolithic Age (Shihsanhang Culture).

In addition to decorated pottery, they made stone tools and also used ironware. Their standard of living was quite advanced and was likely based on hunting, fishing and agriculture.



Taroko Culture

Two to three hundred years ago the Taroko, Dgidaya and Teuda, all related ethnic groups and originally considered to have been subgroups of the Atayal, crossed the Central Mountain Range from the upper reaches of Choshui River into the Hudien area. Eventually the Taroko dominated and drove out the other groups. Following many years of controversy, the "Truku" were formally recognized as Taiwan's 12th indigenous tribe in January 2004.

Buluowan was an important village among the many settlements established throughout Liwu River drainage. Two important families presided over upper and lower terraces until the Japanese forced them move to the lower areas and coastal plains after the 1914 Taroko Incident and the 1930 Wushe Incident. Most of the descendants of the Buluowan residents now live in villages of Fushih and Siulin near the entrance to the National Park.



Bamboo and Rattan Basket Weaving

Rattan basket weaving is very common among indigenous Taiwan people. Most of the baskets are containers used in daily life. The Taroko baskets are among the most outstanding. Basket making is done by men only and nearly all Taroko men were adept at this skill.



Weaving

The Taroko are outstanding weavers. Traditionally, young women begin to learn this skill from their mother or sister-in-law around the age of 15. They are expected to have mastered the skill before marriage. Weaving looms were necessary dowries. Skilled weavers are still highly respected by other members of the tribe and by virtue of these skills have a high social status. Traditionally hemp was the main weaving material. One characteristic distinction of Taroko weaving is the use of in-weaving technique whereby colored wool threads are shuffled between the warp threads to create different patterns. In the past, the favorite colors were white backgrounds decorated with strips of red and blue diamond patterns.



Address: 291, Fushih Village, Siulin Township, Hualien County 972
Telephone: 03-8621100
Website: <http://www.taroko.gov.tw>



Buluowan—Swallow Grotto Trail (0.6km)

Behind the greenhouse on the lower terrace, there are stairs leading down to the west end of Sipan Tunnel near the Swallow Grotto. The steep descent takes about 20 minutes, through a typical forest for this area and makes for a refreshing “green shower”.



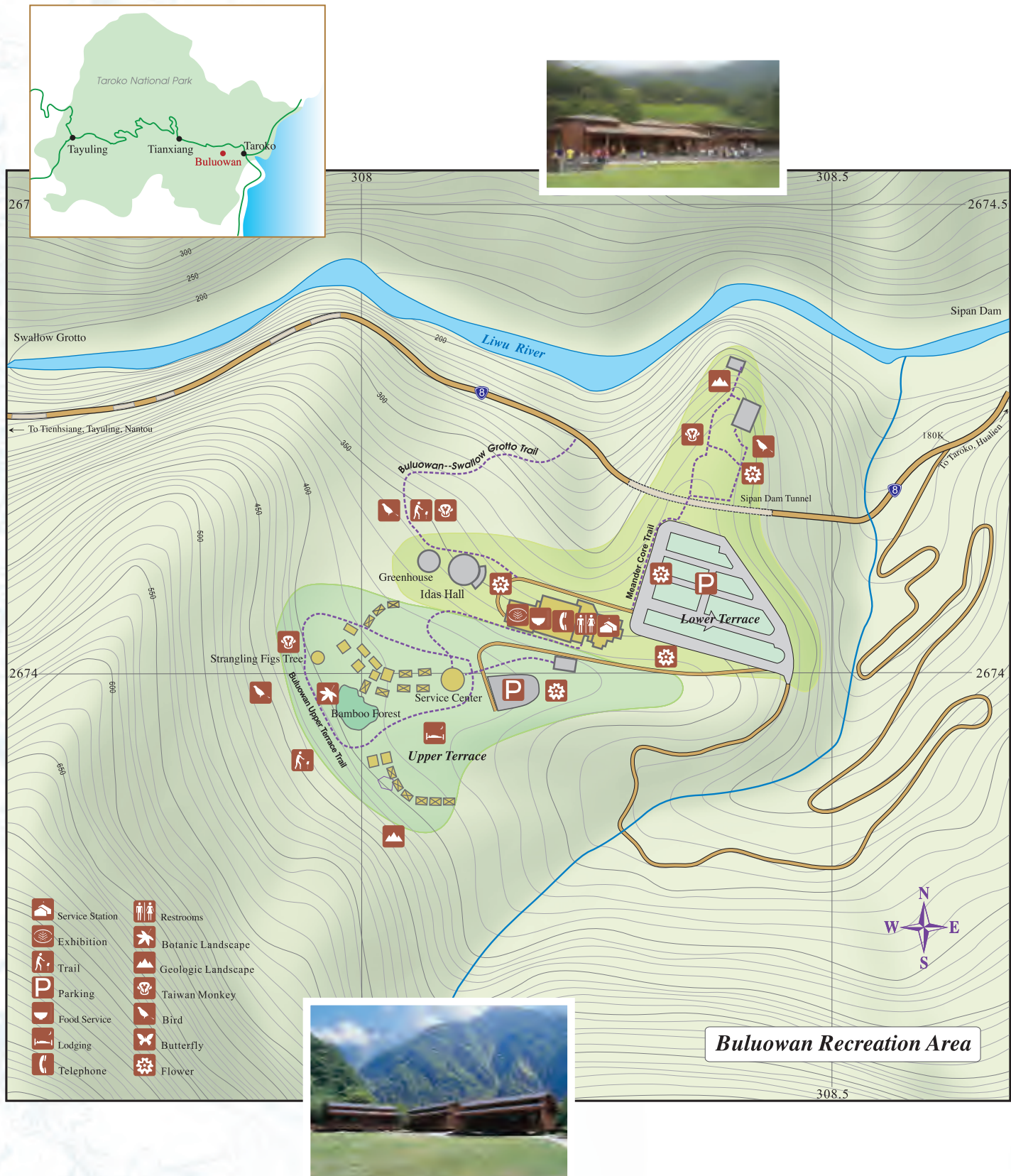
Meander Core Trail (0.295km)

Located at the right of lower terrace as one faces across the gorge, there are decks along the trail for overlooking the beauty of Swallow Grotto and Sipan Dam. This pleasant nature trail is sandwiched by Rhododendron under the shade of Chinese Crape Myrtle and White Wax Tree.



Buluowan Upper Terrace Trail (0.4km)

Behind the cabins on the upper terrace, there is a short nature trail through cool bamboo groves. Beautiful plants, birds and insects can be seen here as well as the magnificent strangling fig trees.



Leader Village Taroko

There are 16 lodges, divided into 24 suites and 8 group rooms for 10 persons each, and a conference room holding up to 80 people. The hotel, leased from Taroko National Park Headquarters, is privately run by Leader Buluowan Company. Service Call: (03)8610111

Services

- ◆Hours: 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM
- ◆Closed on the first and third Mondays of the month, or if a holiday falls on Monday, closed the following Tuesday.
- ◆Taroko tribe Exhibition Room: Taroko tribe traditional loom weaving tools ; exhibition of Taroko baskets and other traditional handicrafts.
- ◆Cafeteria: Food service, Taroko National Park publications and souvenirs.
- ◆Getting There:
Buluowan is accessible by vehicles. There are buses commuting between Hualien and Tianxiang (or Luoshao), some of which stop by Buluowan (please check timetable at 03-8323485). Visitors can either stop by Xipan, and walk forward then up the branch road (2 km) to Buluowan, or get off at Swallow Grotto, and walk back about 800 m to a stairway (0.5 km yet steep) leading up to Buluowan.

◆Briefing Room multimedia films

Times	Programs	Location
09:30, 10:30 11:30, 14:30	Echoing Taroko	
10:00, 11:00 14:00, 15:00	Landscape of Taroko (Idas Hall)	

Contact Numbers

- ◆Taroko National Park Headquarters and Visitor Center
Park Headquarters (03) 8621100~6 ext 360, 361
Buluowan Service Station (03) 8612521, 8612528
- ◆Emergency Service
Taroko National Park Police (03) 8621405~6
- ◆Lodging
Leader Village Hotel - Buluowan. (03) 8610111, FAX:(03) 8610191
- ◆Transportation
Central Cross Island Highway Information (03) 8610775
Hualian Train Station (03) 8355941
Xincheng (Taroko) Train Station (03) 8611237
Hualian Airport (03) 8210700
Hualian Bus Company (03) 8323485



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