

Gorge - Buluowan

Taroko Gorge

Taroko Gorge was formed by the downcutting of the Liwu River through the thick marble strata. The short 6km section from Swallow Grotto (Yanzikou) to Cimu Bridge is where the finest section of the marble gorge can be viewed. Jinheng Bridge, Zhuilu Cliff, Fuji Cliff, Liufang Bridge, Tunnel of Nine Turns (Jiuqudong) are the highlight attractions of Taroko Gorge.

The marble of Taroko Gorge was originally the coral, foramanifera, fusiline and other sea creatures that lived 230 million years ago, the remains of which piled up on the seabed of the South China Subplate (a.k.a. Yangtze Plate) and cemented together to form limestone. With the movement of the South China Subplate tens of millions of years ago, this limestone was subjected to high temperatures and pressure and underwent metamorphosis, becoming marble.

Around 6 million years ago in the Penglai Orogeny, the Philippine Plate collided with the edge of the Eurasian Plate and the island of Taiwan was born. As Taiwan rose from the sea, the marble layer was also gradually pushed up. At the same time, the Liwu River flowed over this thick marble. Under the dual effects of the continual uplifting of the earth's surface and the cutting down of the river, Taroko Gorge was gradually formed over hundreds of thousands to one million years.



Formation of Taroko Gorge

Tunnel of Nine Turns (Jiuqudong) Trail

Grade: Scenic trail

Length: 700 meters (return on original route required)

Location: The trail entrance is at the 173.7K point on the Central Cross-Island Highway

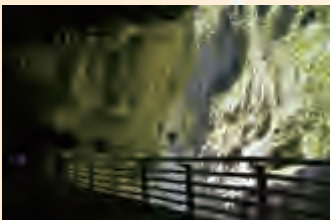
Safety Information:

- 1.This section of trail is susceptible to rock falls. Please quickly pass through areas that are particularly prone to rock falls.
- 2.This trail does not have a car park. Getting there on public transport is suggested.

At Tunnel of Nine Turns, the Gorge is winding and deep, it narrows and the cliffs are higher, creating stunning scenes. The entrance is at the west mouth of Tunnel of Nine Turns tunnel; almost the entire length goes through tunnels or scenic open tunnels, allowing the beautiful Gorge scenery to be viewed. Waterview Trail is 100 meters long and allows visitors to get even closer to the river valley and listen to the sound of the flowing water.



Waterview Trail



Tunnel of Nine Turns Trail

Swallow Grotto (Yanzikou) Trail

Grade: Scenic trail

Length: 1350 meters (trail entrance - Jinheng Park - Zhuilu Cliff)

Location: The trail entrance is at the 178.1K point on the Central Cross-Island Highway

Safety Information:

- 1.This section of trail is susceptible to rock falls. Please wear a hard hat and quickly pass through areas that are particularly prone to rock falls.
- 2.Hard hats can be borrowed free of charge at the eastern entrance of Xipan Tunnel on the Central Cross-Island Highway. Hard hats can be borrowed and returned between 07:30 and 17:30. Tel: 03-8611503.
- 3.This road is shared by vehicles and pedestrians; please pay attention to road safety.

Swallow Grotto Trail is actually the old Central Cross-Island Highway and is now used by both vehicles and pedestrians; The marble gorge is its main feature. Near to the trail entrance is where gneiss and marble meet; the Liwu River can be seen flowing over these two rock strata and has formed sections of gorge with different widths.



Vehicle-pedestrian dual use Swallow Grotto (Yanzikou) Trail .



Pot Holes (a.k.a. Leach Holes)

The cliff on the other side of the river is peppered with holes; these are potholes caused by the water of the Liwu River or groundwater and sometimes ground water flows from the holes. The potholes high up on the cliff are evidence of the continual uplifting of the earth's surface and downcutting of the river over a long period of time.



Pot holes and springs

Jinheng Park

The viewing deck in Jinheng Park is the best place from which to view "Chief Rock" down in the river valley. This rock formation has been skillfully carved out by the river over many years. Jinheng Bridge and Jinheng Park commemorate Section Chief Jin Heng who was killed on duty during the construction of the Central Cross-Island Highway in 1957. A statue of Jin Heng stands in the park, which is next to Jinheng Bridge.

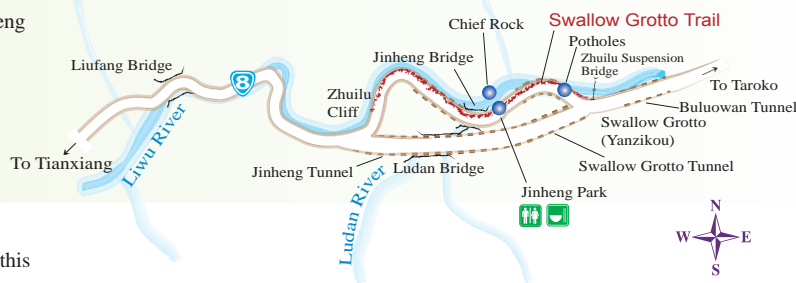


Liufang Bridge

Liufang Bridge

Location: 175.5 K on the Central Cross-Island Highway

There is a three-level viewing platform next to Liufang Bridge. At this point, the Liwu River makes a sharp 90-degree turn. It is an excellent place from which to view the Gorge.



Zhuilu Cliff

Location: 177K point on the Central Cross-Island Highway

The gorge narrows after crossing Jinheng Bridge. From the openings of the open tunnels that follow, the gorge can be viewed. Emerging from the tunnels, tall vertical cliffs can be seen on both sides of the river; the opposite side is Zhuilu Cliff, the side you are on is Fuji Cliff. The cliffs have been cut by the Liwu River over time.

Zhuilu Old Trail cuts across Zhuilu Cliff. It was part of the Hehuan Ancient Trail built in the Japanese Colonial Period. It transcends the cliff around 500 meters above the Liwu River valley. The trail is only around one-meter wide, so walking across it takes courage. A Park Entry Permit is required before entering the trail.



Zhuilu Old Trail crosses Zhuilu Cliff.

Valley Effect

When the wind enters the narrow gorge from the wider river valley, it is compressed by the terrain, speeds up and becomes more powerful. This phenomenon is known as the valley effect. One Line of Sky is the narrowest section of the gorge at Tunnel of Nine Turns and thus the valley effect is produced. The strong winds blow the plants on the cliff and also helps spread their seeds.



The narrow gorge creates the "valley effect" .

Rock Plants

Soil doesn't easily accumulate on the steep walls of the gorge, but plants still grow; these are rock plants. Rock plants mainly live in cracks in the rock, using the tiny amounts of soil and water in the cracks to survive, showing great tenacity. Taiwan Giantreed (*Arundo formosana* Hack.), Chinese Parasol Tree (*Firmiana simplex*), and Southern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) are common rock plants in the gorge at Tunnel of Nine Turns.



Rock Plants

Hanging Valley Waterfall

The Kelan River on the opposite bank of the Liwu River flows rapidly into the Liwu River. There is a huge rock near the confluence, resembling a huge fish about to jump over the waterfall like "fish leaping over dragon gate." The rapids waterfall flow of the Kelan River into the Liwu River is called a hanging waterfall. It is caused because of the large erosive power of the large flow of water of the Liwu River and the smaller erosive power of the small flow of the tributary the Kelan River and is the result of imbalance of the erosive power of tributary and main stream over a long period of time, the difference in erosion getting bigger and bigger over time. In Taroko Gorge there are quite a few hanging valleys formed by the difference in erosion of tributary and main stream.



Hanging Valley Waterfall



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Telephone: +886 3 8621100
Website: <http://www.taroko.gov.tw>



Service Information

Truku Tribe Culture Exhibition Hall Opening Times

08:30-16:30 daily, closed first and third Monday each month.

Film showing times

Presentation room: 09:30, 10:30, 11:30, 13:30, 14:30, 15:30

E-Das Hall: 10:00, 11:00, 14:00, 15:00

Service Telephone Numbers

Taroko National Park Headquarters 03-8621100-6

Taroko Visitor Center 03-8621100 ext. 360, 361, 810, 811, 812

Buluowan Service Station, Taroko National Park 03-8612528

Police Contact Numbers

Ninth Division, Seventh Special Police Corps, National Police Agency 03-8621405~6

Fushi Police Station, Xinsheng Precinct 03-8611344

Transportation

Hualien Bus 03-8333468

Taroko Bus 03-8630150

Accommodation

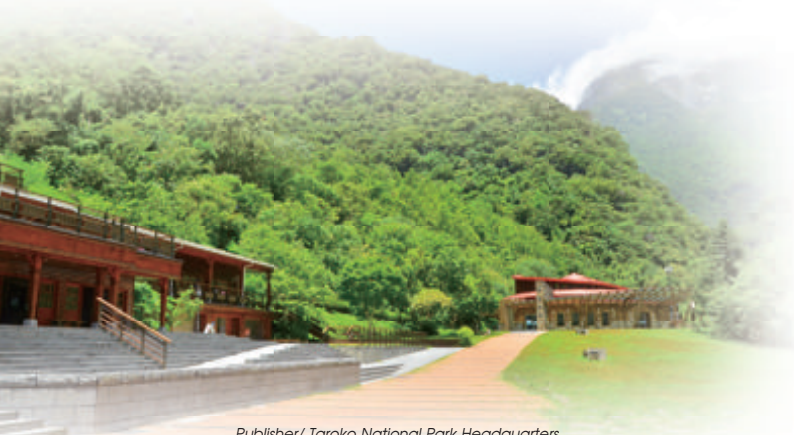
Taroko Village Hotel 03-8610111

Silks Place Taroko 03-8691155

Tianxiang Youth Activity Center 03-8691111-4

Visitor Information

1. Following typhoons and earthquakes, there is an increased likelihood of rock falls in Taroko Gorge and along trails. At such times, please do not enter.
2. Leaving the trails can be dangerous, and can also disturb wild plants and animals. Please remain on the marked trails.
3. In accordance with the profile of the trails, please wear suitable outdoor attire and carry appropriate equipment.
4. Make good use of the Visitor Center and service stations to gather useful information.
5. In the unlikely event venomous snakes or giant hornets are encountered, for your own safety do not disturb or provoke them, and leave the scene quickly and quietly.
6. To avoid impacting the feeding habits and natural habitat of wild animals, please keep your distance on encountering them in the wild and do not harass or feed them.
7. Smoking is forbidden in all national parks except in designated smoking areas.
8. Visitors are the guests of nature, and should treat all natural things accordingly.



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Buluowan Recreation Area

Buluowan Recreation Area

Location: 179.3K on the Central Cross-Island Highway

Buluowan is a river terrace on the east side of Taroko Gorge and is separated into upper and lower terraces. It was originally the site of an indigenous village, Buluowan meaning "tracking prey" in Truku language. Today, the Lower Terrace has the Truku Tribe Culture Exhibition Hall, Meander Core Trail, Shanyue Suspension Bridge and Buluowan Service Station; the Upper Terrace has Taroko Village Hotel which provides food and accommodation; the two terraces are linked by a trail and a road.

Truku Tribe Culture Exhibition Hall

The Exhibition Hall building has the style of a traditional Truku tribe dwelling. It has exhibits relating to cloth weaving, rattan weaving, hunting and facial tattoos.

Traditionally, there was a clear division of labor between



Truku Tribe Culture Exhibition Hall



Truku tribe Cloth weaving.

men and women in the tribe. Weaving ramie cloth, household chores and farming were women's work; the men engaged in hunting prey for food, headhunting, rattan weaving and farming. All the things needed to live came from nature. The mountain forest wisdom of the Truku people can be seen from the exhibits.

Cloth weaving

The patterns on cloth were mostly diamond shaped, representing the eyes of ancestors. The tribe believed that their ancestors were always watching over and protecting them.

Rattan weaving

The old stems of Yellow Rotang Palm were used to make various objects, the most common of which were back baskets, as well as other baskets; they had

Truku tribe rattan basket.

Facial tattoos

Children of the Truku tribe had their foreheads tattooed to show they were members of the tribe. During adolescence, if



girls displayed skill in weaving cloth, were virtuous and diligent, and were regarded as generally capable, they were eligible to have a tattoo on both cheeks; if boys were brave warriors and good hunters, they could have a tattoo on their chin.

These tattoos represented maturity and honor; only people with these tattoos could marry, and only they could pass over the rainbow bridge of legend to be reunited with the spirits of their ancestors after death.

Meander Core Trail

The meander core is circled by a trail about 300 meters long,

some of which is user-friendly and provides access to baby strollers and wheelchairs. Along the way, there are

viewing decks and pavilions from which the Liwu River gorge can be viewed from above. Shanyue Suspension Bridge spanning the Liwu River can be seen far to the west.



Meander Core Trail

Shanyue Suspension Bridge

Shanyue Suspension Bridge is 196 meters long, 2.5 meters wide and around 152 meters from the river valley; it is the longest and highest bridge in Taroko National Park. It is a barrier-free trail that spans the Liwu River valley from the Lower Terrace of Buluowan. Returning by the original route is required. Looking at the Liwu River valley from the bridge, to the west the Swallow Grotto area of Taroko Gorge can be seen; to the east, the river valley is wider but still offers excellent scenery.

This is the fourth generation bridge and was completed in 2019. The first bridge was built in 1914 during the Battle of Taroko, was 154 meters long and was part of the frontier guard defense line; the second bridge was completed in December 1930 and was 190 meters long and 75 meters

above the river valley; the third bridge was completed in 1941.

Some of the Japanese police that were posted here were so intimidated by the height of the bridge they resigned, which is why the bridge was nicknamed "resignation bridge."



Shanyue Suspension Bridge in the Japanese Colonial Period.



Shanyue Suspension Bridge



Taroko Village Hotel



Upper Terrace Trail

Taroko Village Hotel

Located on Buluowan Upper Terrace, the hotel's operation is outsourced by Taroko National Park. It provides food service and accommodation. The low-key buildings merge as one with the natural mountain scenery.

Buluowan Upper Terrace Trail is behind the accommodation area; the vegetation along it is seasonal tropical rainforest. Although the trail is short, it has rich ecology and should be experienced slowly.

Historical Remains

The earliest residents of Buluowan known at present were Shihsanhang culture Buluowan type people, who migrated from north Taiwan and had the ability to smelt steel, gold and make pottery.

Around 300 years ago, people of the Truku tribe crossed the high mountains from western Taiwan and settled in the Liwu River basin, established a village at Buluowan and developed mountain forest culture.

In the Japanese Colonial Period, a garrison road was built along the Liwu River to control the local indigenous people. Shanyue Suspension Bridge, built at this time, was the longest bridge on the Liwu River valley from the Buluowan.



Fragments of patterned pottery at Buluowan Terrace.



A Taroko tribe dwelling in the Japanese Colonial Period.

Taiwan Lily (*Lilium formosanum*)

Taiwan lilies can be seen from rocks at the seashore to high mountains over 3000 meters high. The lilies of Buluowan bloom April-May every year; the large snow white flowers can be seen at the Meander Core and on Buluowan Lower Terrace and their delicate fragrance can also be smelled in the air.



Taiwan Lily

Golden Spider Lily (*Lycoris aurea*)

The Gold Spider Lily is native to the mountains of northern and eastern Taiwan, growing on collapsed ground. They bloom in October, around the time of National Day, and so are also called "National Day Flower". Due to excessive picking in the past they are in decline. In Taroko Gorge, they can still be seen growing on the cliffs. The lilies at Buluowan meander core were planted by Buluowan Service Station.



Golden Spider Lily

Fire-thorn (*Pyracantha koidzumii*)

The Fire-thorn is native to eastern Taiwan, growing in dry riverbeds. They are becoming rare in the wild. Fire-thorn line the trail to Shanyue Suspension Bridge; red fruit covers the trees every winter and white blossoms in spring. Pick the right season to come and you can enjoy pure white flowers and bright red fruit.



Fire-thorn

The cheek and chin tattoos of the Truku tribe represent maturity and honor.
(Photo by Yang Hsiang-wen)

