

TRAVEL IN TIANXIANG

Whether taking a detour through the mountains from the west, or passing through awe-inspiring gorge from the east, this is the place to enjoy a leisurely journey.

The aboriginal people of Taroko tribe took their name from the Formosan Sugar Palm, and the tribe that established themselves here was known as Tɔ̍pdu (the old name of Tianxiang, meaning Formosan Sugar Palm). As we look back towards the past, so we see beneath the surface the footsteps of the aboriginal inhabitants from more than 300 years ago, now hidden by the footsteps of different groups of people up to the present day.

Tianxiang is a place to go looking for an ancient past, but it is also a place from which to start a journey through Lüshui, Heliu, Cimu Bridge, Baiyang, Xibao, and Huoran Pavilion...take a trip on this mountain path and pay a visit to nature!

Itinerary 1 Tianxiang Terrace

Tianxiang Service Station (3 minute walk) **Wen Tianxiang Park** (2 minute walk)
Tianxiang Church (5 minute walk) **Plum Garden** (3 minute walk) **Fu Garden**
(1 minute walk) **Zhihui Bridge** (20 minute walk) **Xiangde Temple** (return) (15 minute walk)

Tianxiang Bus Station (1 minute walk) **The Central Cross-Island Highway Story Hall**
• **Required time:** 1.5-2 hours
• **Please note:** this route is tailored towards the masses, but the steps towards Xiande Temple are uphill and therefore you are asked to consider your physical stamina



Tianxiang Terrace is surrounded by mountains, and located where the Taci Jili River and Dasha River meet to form the Liwu River. Tectonic uplift, along with river erosion and deposition, gradually gave rise to a multi-layered but generally flat river terrace. This is an area in which people have lived since ancient times. As the main scenic spot on the Central Cross-Island Highway, it is well-worth exploring, and it is a place where you can never cease to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and gorge around.

Tianxiang Service Station features an exhibition hall, where an interpretation service is provided to visitors and films are shown.



Tianxiang Service Station

The **Central Cross-Island Highway Story Hall** is located on the Central Cross-Island Highway, and features old photographs and written records related to the construction history, the transformation, the tourist sites, and the past and present Central Cross-Island Highway; thereby bringing the highway to life with detailed stories and tales.

Xiangde Temple is approached on foot from Pudu Bridge, and after climbing a flight of stairs, the intrepid guest will reach sites such as the Mahāvira Hall, Tianfeng Pagoda and White-robed Guanyin. You can get a bird's-eye view of the surrounding landscape of Tianxiang Terrace. Opening time: 06:00-16:30 (weekdays), 06:00-17:00 (public holidays).

Wen Tianxiang Park was built on the site of Sakuma Shrine in 1923, and after the shrine fell into a state of disrepair and was torn down, it became the site of a sculpture of Wen Tianxiang built following the opening of the Central Cross-Island Highway. The Song of Justice were engraved on the rear wall, and later the name of Tabido was changed to Tianxiang.



The Central Cross-Island Highway Story Hall



Wen Tianxiang Park

Plum Garden sits next to the car park, and is composed of two rows of plum trees, totaling more than 50 in number. These were planted after the opening of the Central Cross-Island Highway, and under the trees are small paths for visitors to enjoy. Every year in January the plum trees blossom, and a meandering journey can be taken through the plum blossom forest, with petals falling gently like snowflakes and the fragrance of flowers filling the air.



Plum Garden

The **Old Highway Bus Station** was built in the 1960s, and in the old days it was a temporary resting place for tourists and buses crossing the Central Cross-Island Highway towards Hualien or Taichung. After the regular bus service ceased operations, maintenance of the station was handed over to Taroko National Park Headquarters.

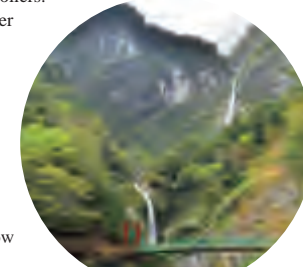
Cross-Hehuan Mountain Road After the end of the Taroko military campaign in 1914, a garrison road was built from Xincheng up to the Liwu River, with the path rebuilt in 1934 as Cross-Hehuan Mountain Road. Tianxiang Terrace still has one small section of stones from the original road.

Itinerary 2 Baiyang Trail (scenic trail) 2.1km in length

Tianxiang (head along Central Cross-Island Highway to the west 15 minutes by foot, 3 minutes by car) **Baiyang trail entrance located at Central Cross-Island Highway 167.9km point** (walk 15 minutes) **the first viewing deck** (walk 25 minutes) **Baiyang waterfall** (walk 10 minutes) **Water Curtain Cave** (return)

- **Required time:** 2-3 hours round trip
- **Please note:**
 1. The entrance to the Baiyang Trail is around 900 meters from Tianxiang, with a car park and restrooms located near to the entrance.
 2. Baiyang Trail has many tunnels. Please ensure you carry a flashlight. On some sections there may be a danger of rock fall, so please pay close attention to safety.
 3. Inside Water Curtain Cave the path is narrow and slippery. Evaluate the situation before proceeding. If using raincoats, please take them away with you afterwards.
 4. The water pool of Water Curtain Cave is a water source for the Tianxiang area. Please do not play around or swim in the pool.

Baiyang Trail is wide and flat, and meanders along the Wahei-er River and the Taci Jili River, with first 0.95km flat paving providing a friendly surface for wheelchairs and baby strollers. Walking along the path, there is one tunnel after another, and the sensation of entering into darkness then back out into the light give an enjoyable view through torrent and gorge, with Baiyang Waterfall appearing after exiting the fifth tunnel.



Bayang Waterfall

Baiyang Waterfall cascades down from the top of the cliff and flows into the Taci Jili River after a few turns. The viewing deck below the waterfall is the best spot from which it can be viewed, and there is a suspension bridge linking the riverbank to the viewing platform. On one side of the viewing platform the waterfall can be seen, and on the other side the river rapids of Taci Jili River and the gorge create a thrilling spectacle that can be both seen and heard.

Water Curtain Cave Following the path further away from the waterfall, two more tunnels are passed through before reaching Water Curtain Cave 200 meters further on. This is a mountain spring emerging from a tunnel, and it has the appearance of a white water curtain. It was created in the early days when the boring out of a tunnel exposed an underground layer of water.



Taci Jili River



Baiyang Trail



TAROKO NATIONAL PARK

Address: 291, Fushi Village, Xiulin Township, Hualien County 97253, Taiwan, R.O.C.
Telephone: +886 3 8621100
Website: <http://www.taroko.gov.tw>



Service Information

Tianxiang Service Station

Service Offering: Exhibition, film showings, interpretation service
Opening Times: Daily 09:00-16:30, with closure on the second and fourth Monday of each month.
Service Telephone Number: 03-8691162, 03-8691466

Central Cross-Island Highway Story Hall

Service Offering: Central Cross-Island Highway history , information about the past and present Central Cross-Island Highway, and old photographs of Central Cross-Island Highway
Opening Times: Daily 09:00-16:00, with closure on the second and fourth Monday of each month
Service Telephone Number: 03-8691119

Lüshui Geological Exhibition Hall (Upper Terrace)

Service Offering: Taroko gorge geological information, and information point
Opening Times: Daily 09:00-16:00, with closure on first and third Monday of each month.
Service Telephone Number: 03-8691190

Lushi Exhibition Hall (Lower Terrace)

Service Offering: Taroko history and Central Cross-Island Highway exhibition
Opening Times: Daily 09:00-16:30

Police Contact Numbers

Taroko Division- Wenshan Branch (Ninth Division, the Seventh Special Police Corps, National Police Agency) 03-8691202
Tianxiang Police Station-Xincheng branch (Hualien County Police Station) 03-8691139

Accommodation

Silks Place Taroko (03) 8691155
Taroko Village Hotel 03-8610111
Tianxiang Youth Activity Center (03)8691111~4
Catholic Church 03-8691122
Tianxiang Church 03-8691203

Medical Information

Tzu Chi Roaming Hospital

Every Saturday 14:30-17:30, 18:30-21:30
(Treatment carried out between Saturday 21:30 and Sunday 08:30)
Every Sunday 08:30-11.30
Location: Tianxiang Health Center

Xiulin Township Tianxiang Health Center

Every Monday 09:00-11:00 (Service hours subject to Highway 8 road conditions)
Phone: 03-8691225

Visitor information

- In the aftermath of typhoons, heavy rain and earthquakes, there is an increased likelihood of rock falls in Taroko Gorge and along the trails. At such times please do not enter.
- Leaving the trails can be dangerous, and can also lead to the disturbance of wild plants and animals. Please remain on the marked trails.
- In accordance with the profile of the trails, please make sure to wear attire fit for outdoor activity, and bring appropriate equipment.
- When entering the paths, walking near cliffs, and in the natural wilderness, please take care of personal safety at all times. If footpaths have been closed, please do not attempt to enter.
- Please make good use of visitor center and service stations to collect and enquire about related information.
- In the unlikely event that venomous snakes or giant hornets are encountered, for your own safety do not disturb or provoke them, and leave the scene quickly and quietly.
- To avoid impacting the feeding habits of Formosan macaques and their ecological systems, please maintain your distance when encountering them in the wild and do not harass or feed them.
- Smoking is totally forbidden in the national park except for some designated smoking areas.
- Visitors are the guests of nature, and should treat all natural things in an appropriate way.
- For bus routes and regular bus service information, please check Hualien Bus (03)8333468 or Taroko Bus (03)8630150

Itinerary 3 Lüshui Trail (scenic trail) 2km in length

Tianxiang (from the Central Cross-Island Highway 2km to the East 40 minutes by foot, 5 minutes by car)

Lüshui Exhibition Hall located at Central Cross-Island Highway 170.7k point (2 minutes walk)

Lüshui Geological Exhibition Hall (1 minute walk)
Lüshui Trail head (10 minutes walk)
A short tunnel (10 minutes walk)

Commemorating Spirits Monument (5 minutes walk)
Gravels Path (15 minutes walk)

Heliu Camping Ground (5 minutes walk)
Yuewang Pavillion (15 minutes walk)

Cimu Bridge

Required time: 2-3 hours

Please note:

- There are car parks at Lüshui and Heliu.
- Visitors to the path are advised to enter from Lüshui and walk in the direction of Heliu, from where they can take the Central Cross-Island Highway towards Yuewang Pavillion, or alternatively turn back towards Lüshui.

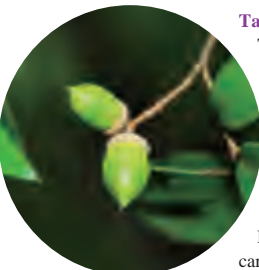


Lüshui Trail

Entering next to Lüshui Geological Exhibition Hall (Upper Terrace), this is a section of Cross-Hehuan Mountain Road, and the road is lined with forest, steep cliff and old ruins. As such this path combines both natural and cultural beauty.



Tunnels and Cliffs Upon entering the trail, the first impression is of a shady and covered forest pressing tight against the small bridge and tunnel. The tunnel is around 30 meters in length, and upon exiting the tunnels, everything at once becomes clear and a steep cliff confronts the visitor. The path cuts across the steep cliff, and it is here that the Central Cross-Island Highway heading up and heading down finds itself at a crossroads. Walking along the top of the steep cliff, there is no harm in taking a look down towards the vegetation clinging to the cliff wall below, trying hard to seek survival in competition with the elements and showing a remarkable vitality.



Taroko Oak

Taroko Oak (*Quercus tarokoensis*) which was named after Taroko can be seen on the trail. It is a breed from Taiwan, and only appears in the east of the country in small clusters, adapting to its rocky environment wherever it might be found.

Commemorating Spirits Monument was carved into the stone.

Featuring four names carved in it, the memorial was constructed between the third and eleventh year of the reign of Taisho

(1914-1922), and commemorates the death in the line of duty of Japanese citizens deep in the mountains in a foreign land. It also bears witness to 100 years of history.



The rock carved memorial



Yuewang Pavillion

Heliu Camping Ground and Yuewang Pavillion The path is in the vicinity of the spot where the Central Cross-Island Highway meets Heliu Camping Ground. In earlier days, the camping ground was a timber yard for trees which had been felled, and on the bank opposite traces of ropeway used to transport wood can be seen nestled amongst mountainridge's sunken places caves. Next to Yuewang Pavilion sits a suspension bridge that spans the river, and after enjoying the scenery from the suspension bridge, visitor can turn around and head back.

Cimu Bridge At the Cimu

Bridge the Laoxi River flows into the Liwu River, and above the entrance to the river stands a huge rock that looks like a crouching frog and which therefore has the nickname of Frog Stone. The stone is formed from marble and green schist, and is created from layers of rock strata coming from both east and west ends of two valley gorges. In the easterly direction is a typical marble gorge, and in the westerly direction towards the Liwu Rive the gorge widens.



Cimu Bridge and Frog Stone

Itinerary 4 Lüshui - Wenshan Trail (mountaineering trail) 5.5km in length

Tianxiang (from the Central Cross-Island Highway 2km to the East 40 minutes by foot, 5 minutes by car)

Lüshui Trail Start point located at Central Cross-Island Highway 170.7k point (5 minutes walk)

Lüshui - Wenshan Trail Fork Crossing

Taishan Tunnel located at Central Cross-Island Highway 165.7k point (around 2.7km along the Central Cross-Island Highway, 50 minutes by foot, 7 minutes by car)

Tianxiang

Required time: 5-6 hours round trip

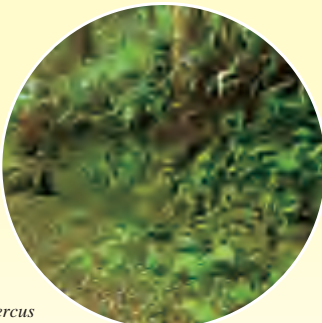
Please note:

- This path is long in length, has a steep gradient, and is a mountaineering style trail. Carrying drinking water, food, and suitable equipment is a must; and visitors should consider their physical capabilities.
- The entrance at the eastern extremity is the same as for the Lüshui Trail, and at the western end it is located in the Taishan Tunnel on the Central Cross-Island Highway. It is possible to decide whether to enter from the Lüshui or Wenshan side, but it is recommended to first consider transport access. For those taking the bus to access the trail, please first check on bus service times.



Bird's eye view of the Dasha River and the Central Cross-Island Highway.

Broad-leaved forest As the trail rises heading westwards, it is possible to survey the mountains from up high and look over the Liwu River. After having walked along roughly half of the trail, walkers can catch sight of Tianxiang and Wenshan on the opposite side of the river. It is also possible to see a forest of primitive broad-leaved trees, and within the lush and flourishing forest are the rarely-seen tree species of the large-leaved Nanmuz (*Machilus japonica* Sieb), Taiwan Photinia (*Pourthiaea lucida*), Taiwan Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* (Thunb.) Makino), Ring-cupped Oak (*Quercus glauca*), and Taiwan Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum insulari-montanum* Hayata).



Japanese Colonial Period ancient road and embankment



Lüshui Wenshan Trail

fact established as garrison roads during the period of Japanese rule. Near to the Mhiyang Village, there is a section of path of a number of meters in length the stone retaining wall has been constructed in an orderly way and silently tells a story of time past.

Wenshan The trail to Wenshan first heads downhill, where it then crosses over a small iron bridge over the Dasha River. On the other side of the river is an air vent for the Taishan Tunnel on the Central Cross-Island Highway. This bridge was built in 1981 as part of the Liwu River hydroelectricity plan, but after the plan was scrapped, the bridge has remained in place through to the present day.



Dasha River

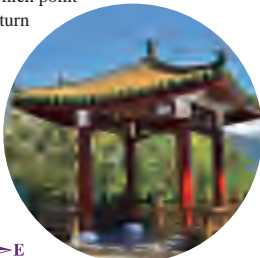
Highlights of the Central Cross-Island Highway

Xibao is located at the 161km marker of the Central Cross-Island Highway at 915 meters above sea level and is a high terrace formerly the riverbank of the Taci Jili River. The Taroko Tribe also established a settlement here, as did those who built the Central Cross-Island Highway. In its early years, retired servicemen established Xibao farm, as well as a primary school for the younger generation. The primary school of those days remains in the present, now known as Xibao Elementary School. Xibao has now been transformed into a friendly environment making use of organic farming and cultivation methods.

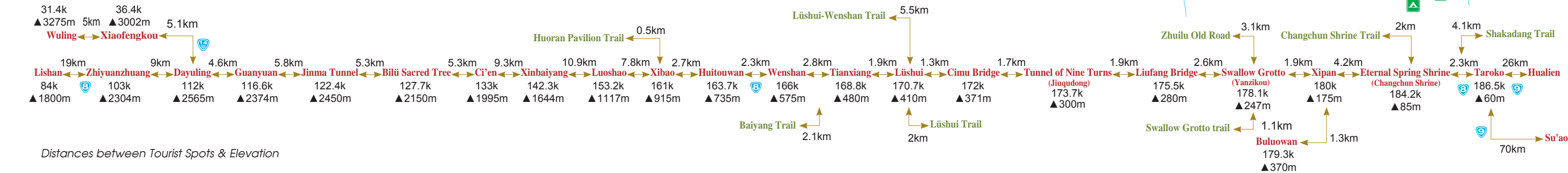
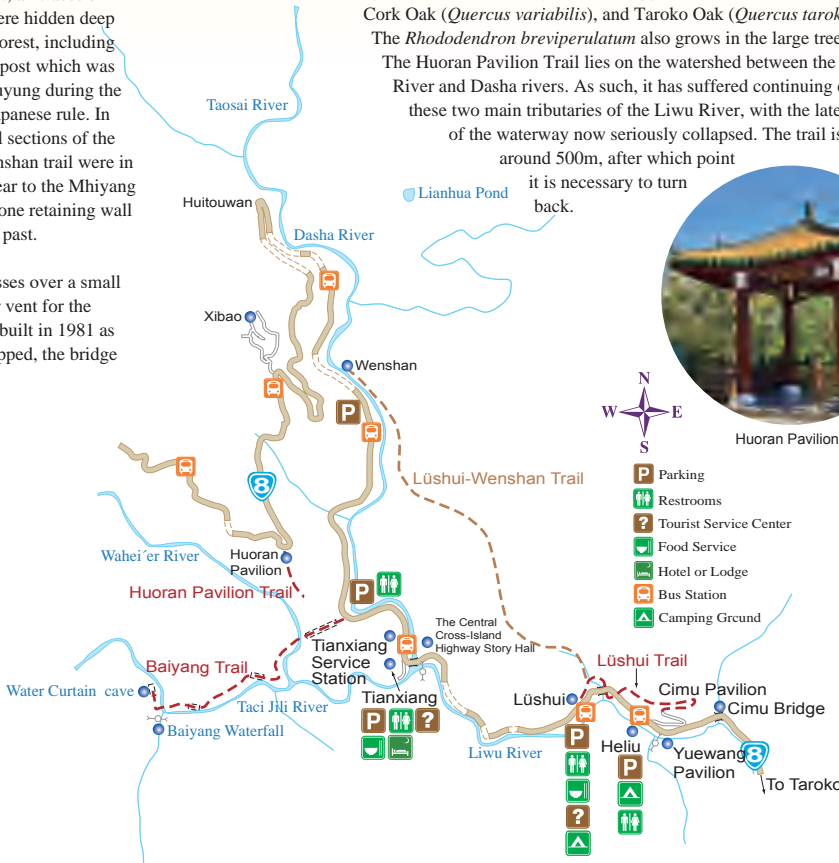


Xibao Elementary School

Huoran Pavilion is located at the 160.2km point of the Central Cross-Island Highway, and sits at a height of around 1,000 meters above sea level. From here, it is possible to gaze over the landscape and look over Tianxiang Terrace far below. On the side of the pavilion is a small pathway, and this is Huoran Pavilion Trail. Following on down the narrow and straight path feels like a journey deep into the forest, with the most frequently seen trees being the Ring-cupped Oak (*Quercus glauca*), Chinese Cork Oak (*Quercus variabilis*), and Taroko Oak (*Quercus tarokoensis*). The *Rhododendron breviperulatum* also grows in the large trees here. The Huoran Pavilion Trail lies on the watershed between the Taci Jili River and Dasha rivers. As such, it has suffered continuing erosion by these two main tributaries of the Liwu River, with the later section of the waterway now seriously collapsed. The trail is open for around 500m, after which point it is necessary to turn back.



Huoran Pavilion



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