

Taroko Terrace

The Liwu River comes from the high mountains, then hastily winds its way east to the ocean. Where the north-south Su-Hua Highway and east-west Central Cross-Island Highway meet, head west and the highway winds up and over the high mountains.

This is the starting point of Taroko National Park. Set out for the various attractions from the Taroko Visitor Center, view forests, birds and insects, gorges, rivers and rocks, ancient trails and villages, arches and ancestral shrines. Carefully observe the wonderful colors of nature and the rich abundance of human culture.

Central Cross-Island Highway Arch Gate



The arch spans the road and marks the entrance to Taroko and the Central Cross-Island Highway; it was built to commemorate the completion of the highway in 1960 and has long been Taroko's most recognizable landmark. The arch also marks the point where the old Su-Hua Highway meets the current highway. From here, visitors can head west to central Taiwan over the Central Mountain Range, or north on the Su-hua Highway to Yilan.

There is a viewing deck next to the arch, close to the bank of the Liwu River. From it, the river can be seen emerging from the mountains and slowly making its way east to the ocean. The terrace on the opposite bank is Taroko Terrace, where Taroko National Park Headquarters and Visitor Center are located. Head west from Taroko Terrace onto the Central Cross-Island Highway and keep going to reach Taroko Gorge, Tianxiang and other attractions.



May 1960 marked the opening of the Central Cross-Island Highway



The Central Cross-Island Highway Arch

Taroko Terrace Trail



Trail Grade: Scenic trail

Trail Length: 1.25 kilometers (southern section and northern section)

Taroko Terrace Trail is divided into northern and southern sections. Most of the trail length is elevated wooden walkway and is flat and easy to walk; together with Dekalun Trail and Dali-Datong Trail, Taroko Terrace Trail forms a circular trail route.

The northern section of the trail goes down along the foot of the mountain, through lush forest, joins with Dekalun Trail and rises; the southern section of the trail skirts the southern fringe of the terrace and offers views of the lower reaches of the Liwu River entering the Pacific; the trail circles behind the Visitor Center to the edge of the mountain and then follows the slope up around 250 meters where it meets Dali Trail. Visitors can reach Dali Trail from the southern section of Taroko Terrace Trail and then return to the terrace via Dekalun Trail.



Northern Section of the Terrace Trail



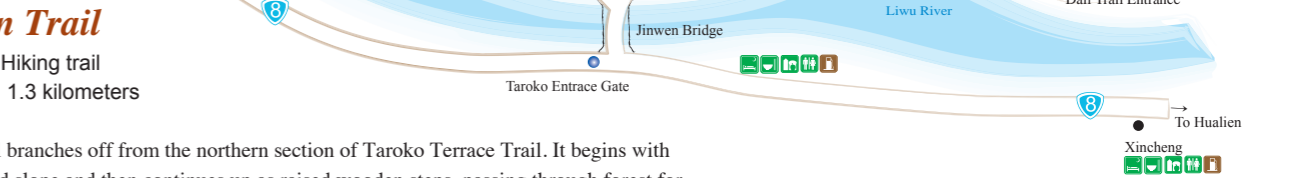
Southern Section of the Terrace Trail



Liwu river gorge overlooked from Dekalun Trail



Dekalun Trail



Dekalun Trail

Trail Grade: Hiking trail

Trail Length: 1.3 kilometers

Dekalun Trail branches off from the northern section of Taroko Terrace Trail. It begins with a short upward slope and then continues up as raised wooden steps, passing through forest for almost its entire length. On the way, there are two viewing decks that offer expansive views, including of the Pacific, agricultural hamlet at the mouth of the Liwu River, Taroko Terrace and even the Bell Tower on Eternal Spring Shrine Trail.

At its end, the trail joins with Dali Trail; go up to Dali Village, down to re-join the southern section of Taroko Terrace Trail and back to the terrace.

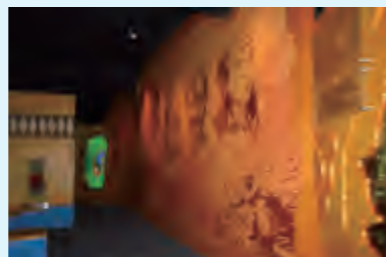
Taroko Visitor Center

The Visitor Center provides information and interpretation services to help visitors learn all about Taroko National Park. Upon entering, there is an interpreter at the service desk who provides visitors with information and advice. Free leaflets introducing the area are also available. A film about the national park is shown at regular intervals in the Briefing Room. The Visitor Center also has three display halls, namely the Exhibition - Our Environment, Humans and the Environment and the Environmental Education Hall. Why not spend some time at the Visitor Center learning about the national park before starting your visit?

- Opening times: 08:30 – 17:00 every day
- Closed: The second Monday of every month
- Film showing times:
 - Upper Level Briefing Room A: 09:30, 10:30, 11:30, 13:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30
 - Lower Level Briefing Room B: 09:00, 10:00, 11:00, 13:10, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00



Taroko Visitor Center



Humans in the Environment Hall



Children's Environmental Education Hall



Our Environment Hall

Trip suggestions

Trip 1: Easy travel on Taroko Terrace Circular route takes about three hours

Taroko Visitor Center — Taroko Terrace Trail northern section - Dekalun Trail - Dali trail - Taroko Terrace Trail southern section

Trip 2: Water and Stone Eco-tour on Shakadang Trail Around three-hour round trip

Taroko Terrace - Xiaozhuilu Trail - Shakadang Trail - Brayaw (Sanjianwu) return

Trip 3: Commemorating the road builders who lost their lives at Eternal Spring Shrine Transport time+walk requires around one hour

Taroko Entrance Gate — Taroko Visitor Center — Eternal Spring Shrine — Taroko Entrance Gate

Trip 4: Explore Dali Village Circular one-day route Mountain climbing

Taroko Terrace — Taroko Terrace Trail southern section — Dali Trail — Dali village — Dali Trail — Dekalun Trail — Taroko Terrace

Trip 5: Explore Dali and Datong villages Circular two-day route Mountain climbing

Taroko Terrace — Taroko Terrace Trail southern section — Dali Trail — Dali village — Tongli Trail (old trail) — Datong village — Shakadang Logging Road — Dali village — Dali Trail — Dekalun Trail — Taroko Terrace



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



Service Information

Taroko National Park Headquarters (03)8621100-6
Taroko Visitor Center (03)8621100 ext. 360, 361
Suhua Service Station 03-8621100 ext. 321, 322

Police Contact Numbers

Ninth Division, Seventh Special Police Corps, National Police Agency 03-8621405-6
Fushi branch 03-8611344

Transportation

Hualien Bus (03)8333468
Taroko Bus (03)8630150

Accommodation

Xincheng Liiko Hotels 03-8611969
Starry Inn 03-8610899
Taroko Hotel 03-8611558
Liwu Hotel 03-8610769

Visitor information

1. In the aftermath of 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. Please wear attire fit for outdoor activity, and bring appropriate equipment in accordance with the profile of the trails.
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 Formosan macaques, 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.

Dali-Datong Trail

Trail Grade: Hiking trail

Trail Length:

- Dali Trail (Taroko —Dali): 3.5 kilometers
- Shakadang Logging Road (Dali—Datong): 6.4 kilometers
- Tongli Trail (Dali-Datong): 2.9 kilometers

Dali and Datong are Taroko (Truku) tribe villages on the upper reaches of Taroko Terrace. Dali was originally called Huhus, meaning Yellow Basket Willow. Datong was originally called Shakadang, meaning molar; it is said the name comes from when early Taroko tribe settlers found large molars on the site; another explanation for the origin of the village name is that it is shaped like a molar. Shakadang Garrison Road was built in 1914, during the period of Japanese colonial rule, linking Dali and Datong villages; Tongli Trail is part of that old road. In the 1960s, Shakadang Logging Road was built from Dali for logging purposes, passing through Datong and then continuing further north; when logging operations ceased, the flat forest road became the main route for transporting agricultural products between the two villages.



Tongli Trail

Dali Village once had a police station and chapel, but they were abandoned when the residents relocated en masse in 1980. The two old concrete buildings can still be seen today standing quietly in the village, a testimony to its former glory.

Tongli Trail is long and steep; visitors should assess their physical fitness and available time before setting out, and also be sure to take suitable gear and food.



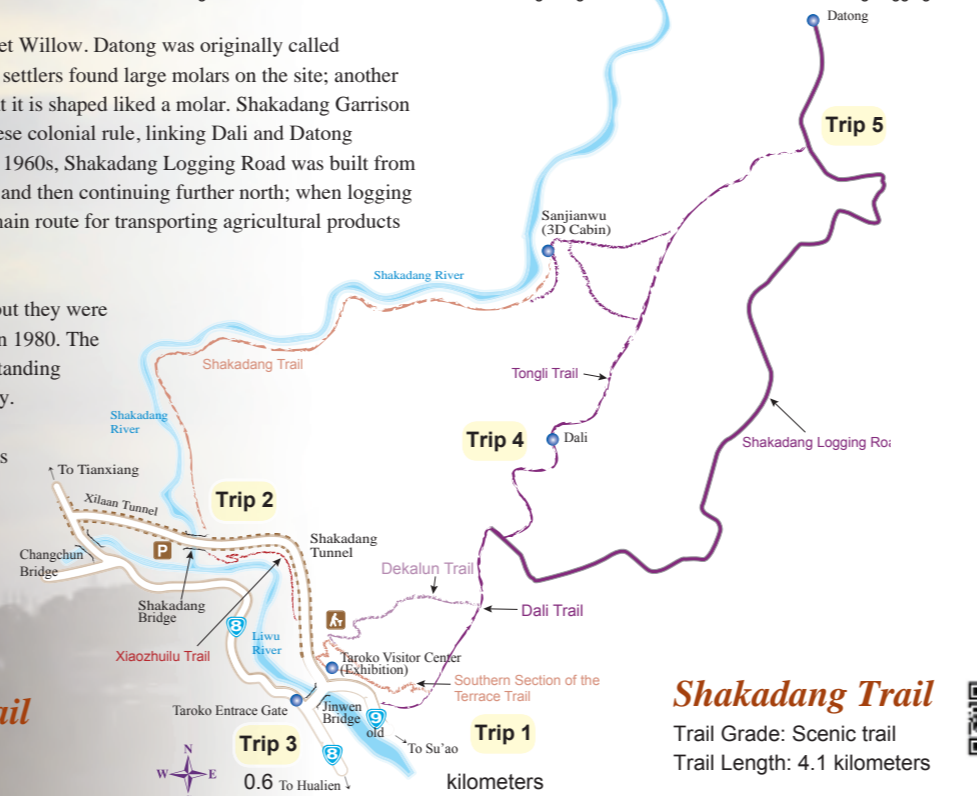
An abandoned church in Dali village



Datong village



Shakadang Logging Road



Xiaozhuilu Trail

Xiaozhuilu Trail

Trail Grade: Scenic trail

Trail Length:

Xiaozhuilu Trail links Taroko Visitor Center and Shakadang Trail. The trail entrance is at the eastern air vent of Shakadang Tunnel. Emerge from the air vent next to Liwu River to see a sheer cliff on one side and Xiaozhuilu Trail on the other; the trail passes through a broad-leaf forest on the north bank of the Liwu River. On the way, the sights of the lower reaches of the river can be enjoyed. The trail joins Shakadang Trail at the confluence of the Liwu and Shakadang rivers.



Liwu river gorge and cliffs overlooked from Xiaozhuilu Trail



Shakadang River and the Shakadang Trail



Fig tree on a boulder



Rock Folds

Shakadang Trail

Trail Grade: Scenic trail

Trail Length: 4.1 kilometers

Shakadang Trail follows the Shakadang River, a tributary of the Liwu River, upstream. The trail, with a gorge on one side and cliff or forest on the other, follows a gentle slope and is easy to walk. Rock folds are one distinctive feature of the trail; at around the one kilometer mark, there is an area of rock folds on the cliff on the opposite side of the river; the multi-layered lines resemble flowing water and, paired with the deep blue color of the water, form one of the most attractive sights on the trail. Along the trail, Large-leaved Nanmu (*machilus kusanoi hayata*), Large-leaved Linder (*lindera megaphylla hemsl.*), large-leaved banyan (*ficus superba*), haul fig tree (*ficus septica burm.f.*), Hayata Fig (*ficus irisan elm.*) and other genus Phoebe and Ficus plants dominate. The hardy rock plants that survive on the rock face are another special feature. In the forest, insects, birds and even mammals are frequently seen and heard.

The trail was originally an industrial road built for the construction of Liwu Hydropower Plant in the Japanese Colonial Period; the large water pipe that spans the river and the retaining dam are power generation facilities left over from that time. Swiji (Wujianwu) on the trail and Brayaw (Sanjianwu) at its end were both once Taroko (Truku) tribe settlements.

The same route needs to be taken there and back on Shakadang Trail. In the case of limited fitness and time, visitors can choose to turn around at the halfway point.

Eternal Spring Shrine Trail (Changchun Shrine Trail)



Trail Grade: Hiking trail

Trail Length: 2 kilometers

Eternal Spring Shrine (Changchun Shrine) was built to commemorate the many workers who lost their lives during the construction of the Central Cross-Island Highway. There is a waterfall just below the Shrine from which spring water gushes out of cracks in the rock and flows into Liwu River, called Eternal Spring Waterfall. The trail is reached via Eternal Spring Bridge on the old cross-island highway; after passing Amitabha (Mituo) Cave, the trail follows tunnels carved out of the rock wall and mountain paths and reaches Eternal Spring Shrine before too long; Guanyin Cave, Taroko Tower and the Bell Tower are on the cliff above the shrine and can be reached up a winding step trail. Carry on from the Bell Tower and the trail goes down; cross the suspension bridge to return to the Central Cross-Island Highway via Changuang Temple.



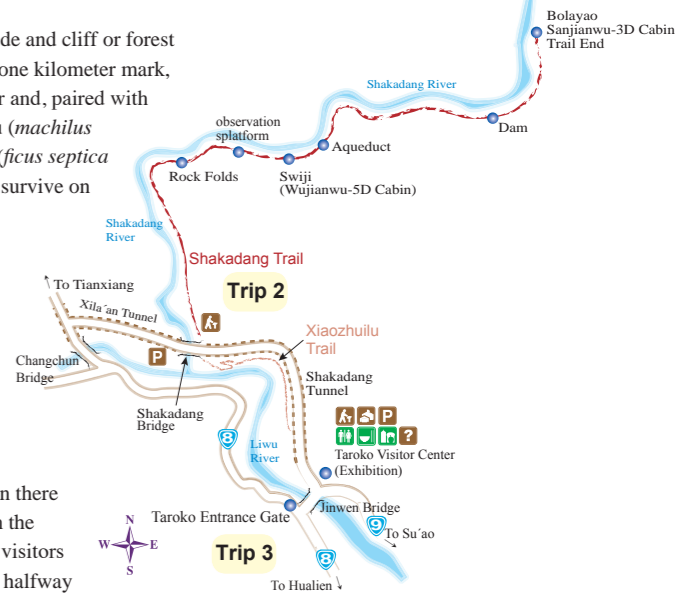
Liwu River



Eternal Spring Shrine Trail (Changchun Shrine Trail)



Changuang Temple overlooked from the Bell Tower



There is a large meander on the Liwu River near Eternal Spring Shrine where the wide river bed narrows to form a gorge. The old Eternal Spring Bridge spans the gorge, views of which can be enjoyed from the bridge. Amitabha Cave was originally a tunnel on a hydropower generation road in the Japanese Colonial Period; half a concrete bridge remains outside the entrance to the tunnel. Guanyin Cave, Taroko Tower and the Bell Tower look down from on high, offering a bird's eye view of the Liwu River meander gorge.

