

Briefing of Yushan National Park



Yushan National Park is located in the heart of Taiwan, and is a typical alpine national park. Mountains cover the landscape, and among them is Yushan Mountain, with a height of 3,952 meters, it proudly stands as the highest mountain in North-East Asia.

The environment and geography within the park vary greatly due to the extremes in altitude. A vast diversity of plants and animals thrive from the lower sub-tropical zones to the frigid heights. Its unique geography creates a rich environment for its inhabitants, that includes many unique species. The scenery changes with the passing of the seasons, whether it is spring grass blanketing the landscape, summer flowers blooming as far as the eye can see, autumn leaves dancing with the wind, or the serene winter snow.

Wonders of Nature, Crafted by Nature



© Siouguluan dead trees

Yushan National Park is known for its beautiful mountains, in fact, one third of the mountains on the island are within the park grounds. Yushan was formed when the Eurasia Plate collided with the Philippine Plate. This created a cross-shaped elevation which formed the main mountain line, with Yushan Mountain at its center. When viewed from the North Western side, its indomitable peaks stand proudly. From the North East, Yushan stands elegantly like an emperor of legend. This scenery has always been greatly appreciated by scholars.

Stretching beyond the east of the Yushan Mountains is the Central Mountain Range, including what was known to the climbing community as the South Sections 1 and 2. Starting from Mengbolasi Mountain from the north, and ranging to Mount Guan to the south, the mountains spread for countless miles, standing gracefully and proudly, they are truly a sight to behold.

Mengbolasi Mountain is also known as the Wulameng Mountain, because of its treacherous cliffs and steep hills. The mountain is considered to be among the top 10 peaks of Taiwan. Standing 3,785 meters tall, this is where the Central Mountain Range turns to the side. The highest peak in the Central Mountain Range is Siouguluan Mountain with an elevation of 3,825 meters. Connecting the Dashuiku Mountains is the wide and gentle sloping mountain pass of Siouguluan. Rhododendrons, bamboos and flowers cover the pass. Among them are dead trees that seemed to have been carved by ingenious hands. When the flowering season arrives, they flourish and bloom, creating a haven of beauty. That is hard not to fall in love with.



The Bountiful Plantations and the Stream of Life



© Taiwan White Fir



© Yushan Gentiana



© Taiwan Ladybell



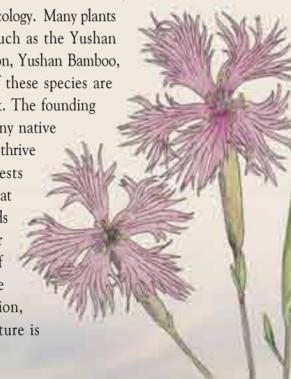
© Yushan Rhododendron

When people think of Yushan National Park, the first things that come to mind are its proud peaks and bountiful plantations. Due to the Park's wide range of jagged peaks and unsurpassed valleys, it not only holds many isolated environments, but also different climates, which could be divided into six main categories: tropical rain forests, temperate rain forests, temperate evergreens, frigid evergreens, alpine evergreens, and Alpine tundra.

The geology and elevation are the two main factors that influence the plant life within Yushan National Park. The plants grow in distinctive regions, with firs and hemlocks growing at altitudes above 2,500 meters up to the tree line at 3,600 meters. Plants beyond the tree line are often exposed to strong winds, they are mostly short bushes such as Yushan Junipers, however, Yushan rhododendrons and other plants can also be found.

The forests are the heart of the mountains, and it is also the lifeline of the streams and rivers. The plants protect the soil from being washed away, and retain moisture, thus from many standpoints, Yushan National Park has become an important water reservoir, and many important rivers of Taiwan originate here, such as Zhuoshui River, Gaoping River, and Siouguluan River.

Forests are the essence of the mountains, Yushan National Park takes up only 3% of Taiwan's landmass, but it plays an invaluable role in its ecology. Many plants were named after "Yushan", such as the Yushan Gentiana, Yushan Rhododendron, Yushan Bamboo, and Yushan Junipers. Some of these species are found only within Yushan Park. The founding of the national park caused many native species to not only survive, but thrive under its protection. The forests provided the animals a safe habitat to live in; shrubberies, grass fields and moss nestle safely together under the trees. The roots of these plants firmly protect the soil, preventing it from erosion, this interlocking design of nature is irreplaceable.



© Yushan Bamboo



Yushan National Park

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Information

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Paiyun Visitor Center: (049)2702228

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Meishan Visitor Center: (07)6866181

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Yushan Police Squad: (049)2775119

Tataka Police Squad: (049)2702203

Meishan Police Squad: (07)6780002

Nanan Police Squad: (03)8880900

LNT (Leave No Trace)

The LNT philosophy serves to remind the public to protect and safeguard the environment and our natural ecology. Here are several ways to help lower any negative impacts to the environment; we hope everyone can abide to these 7 main points when entering the park grounds, not only for personal safety, but also for the continuity of our environment.

1. Be Fully Prepared and Planned Beforehand

- Plan your route.
- Study the trails and environment
- Bring appropriate clothing and equipment. Bring enough food
- Plan your team makeup and risk management

2. Stay Within the Predetermined Areas

- Walk on existing trails
- Refrain from causing any harm to the environment while camping
- Only camp at predetermined sites while in the national park

3. Proper Waste Treatment

- Don't leave anything behind
- Lower the impact the waste might cause to the environment

4. Maintain the Environment

- Conserve the natural environment
- Leave everything as it is
- Don't spread non-native species
- Lower the Danger of Fire Use caution in the use of stoves and fuel
- Campfires within the park are strictly prohibited

5. Respect the Natural Inhabitants

- Observe them from afar
- Refrain from disturbing the animal's habitats especially during mating season
- Do not feed the animals

6. Be Considerate to Other Guests

- Respect other tourists
- Refrain from making too much noise

The Bittersweet Memories of The Batongguan Trail

Yushan National Park may have treacherous landscapes, but it has always been a site of human activity, especially the Batongguan Historic Trail with its surrounding tribes. Snaking along the peaks, the Batongguan was a mountain route built during the Qing Dynasty. During the Japanese colonial rule, additional passageways were built by the Japanese military forces, to mobilize more quickly to repress the natives. In fact, "Duomeili Station", "Dafen Station", and "Batongguan Station" were all military bases.

Now this historical trail lies exclusively among the forests of Yushan National Park, silently safeguarding the remnants of time. Only the tourists, who occasionally pass by, can see a glimpse of its memory and observe the pages of its history.



© Shan-Feng Falls



© Duomeili



© Batongguan Grassland

The Endless Cycle of Life, a Haven for Animals

Spanning roughly 100,000 hectares, Yushan National Park possesses a huge variety of plant life and geography, thus providing its animals a bountiful environment to feed and to thrive, creating many ecosystems. Due to its unique environment, Yushan National Park is home to many unique animal species, including protected species such as the Formosan Black Bears, Taiwan Blue Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant, and the Taiwan Cryptobranchioidea. In earlier times, these animals were highly valued and thus were excessively hunted. However, after the introduction of conservation laws, these animals now survive and prosper within Yushan National Park.



© Rufous-bellied Blue Flycatcher



© Formosan Black Bears



© Collared Bush Robin

There are now 189 bird species, 58 mammal species, 18 reptile species, 13 amphibian species, 826 insect species, and 12 fresh water fish species within Yushan National Park, creating a complete and abundant ecological haven. However, apart from the inevitable natural disasters that may cause damage to the environment, a majority of the damage is still caused by humans.

The food chain keeps the ecology in balance. If one part of the environment is damaged or harmed, the entire ecology will be affected. The protection of animals is not something that can be done overnight, the less damage done to nature, the less damage it will cause to the environment. Yushan National Park holds a huge variety of species, including many species endemic to Taiwan. This is truly an invaluable ecology that needs to be preserved and protected for future generations.



© Latouche's frog



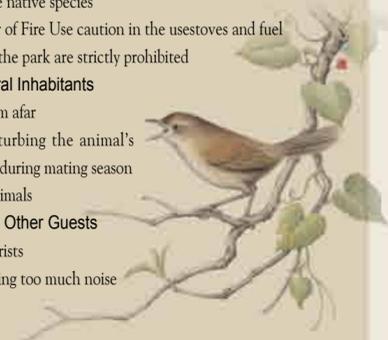
© Lime Butterfly



© Formosan Sambar

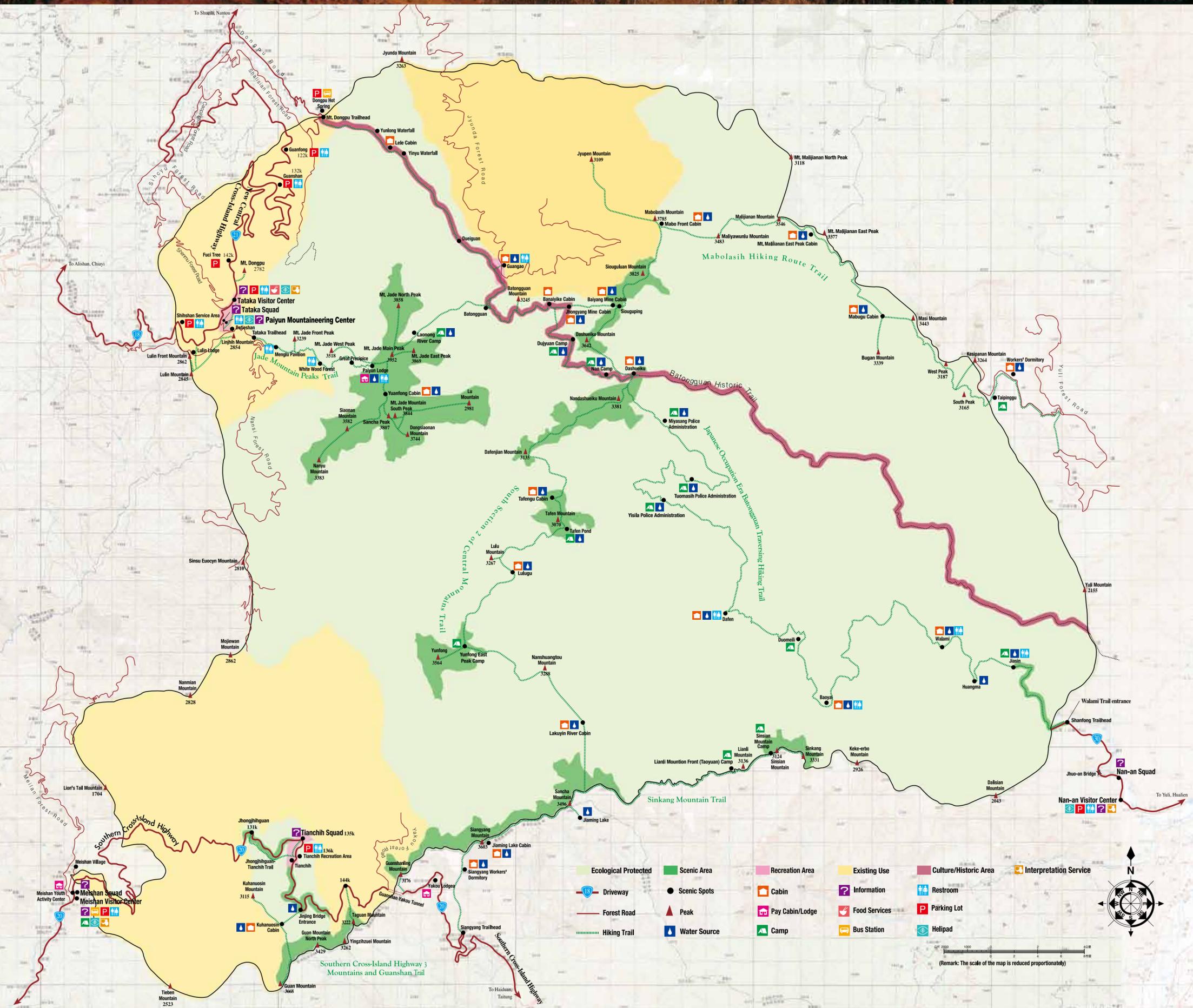


© Mikado Pheasant



© Taiwan Bush Warbler

Yushan National Park Maps



Points of Interest

- Guangaoping:** Facing the Yushan Mountains, possesses a magnificent view, with fields of daisies. It is truly a sight to behold.
- Batongguan:** Lan and Laonong River is found in this area. A forest fire in the past has left an extensive field of grass and bamboos.
- Dafen:** An important police station during the Japanese Colonization, a site rich in cultural history.
- Duomeili:** A station built during the Japanese Colonization, the grandeur of its wall is considered a wonder.
- Yunlong Falls:** At an elevation of 1,400 meters, it is located at the entrance to the Batongguan Historic Trail. The falls have two sections, with the Historic Trail Winding through the middle. Its size and water flow is breathtaking.
- Tataka Anbu:** A large field in which Yushan and Alishan could be seen from its east and west ends, respectively. Located at the highest point of Zhongheng highway.
- Yushan West Peak:** Covered in fir forests, and there is a temple from which the Yushan Main and North Peak can be seen.
- Yushan Main Peak:** Standing at 3,952 meters, with its jagged peak covered in rocks and stones, stands proudly as the tallest peak in Taiwan.
- Yushan North Peak:** A weather station is located at the top of the mountain, a steep slope on one side, and a gentler climb on the other. Rhododendrons bloom during May and June, covering the Northern slope in a brilliant shade of crimson.
- Yushan East Peak:** Surrounded by cliffs on 3 sides, coupled together with huge rocks and steep slopes. It is considered the most challenging of the top 10 mountains of Taiwan.
- Yushan South Peak:** Its ragged ridge has been given an alternative name, "Tianlong Mountain", which means "Dragon Mountain", as it resembles a dragon. It is considered to be one of the Top 10 Mountains of Taiwan.
- Guanshan Pass:** Highest point of Nanheng Highway, a hotspot for viewing the sunrise and clouds.
- Guanshan:** The tallest peak among the southern peaks of Yushan. When viewed from the Main Peak, it resembles a pyramid standing majestically among a sea of clouds.
- Siougulan Pass:** Located between Siougulan Mountain and Dashiuku Mountain. A forest fire decimated the forest that once flourished here, leaving pale trunks behind, dead but still standing.
- Jiayang Lake:** A lake found on the high reaches of the Central Mountain Range. Dubbed the 'Angel's Tear', its clear waters look like sapphire among the green fields, no wonder it's such a tourist hot spot.
- Xiangyang Mountain:** Considered to be one of the '8 Beauties' of Taiwan's mountains, it's South Western side is a huge indomitable cliff.
- Sancha Mountain:** Bamboo covers its gentle slopes and wide hills. It is one of the 3 plains of the Central Mountain Range.
- Xinkang Mountain:** The highest peak in the eastern side, it is often speculated that the first light of the day will always shine on it. It is a hot spot for climbers.
- Siougulan Mountain:** Standing elegantly at 3,825 meters, it is the highest mountain in the Central Mountain Range, and the 3rd highest in Taiwan, preceded only by Yushan and Xueshan.
- Mengbolasi Mountain:** The second highest peak in the Central Mountain Range, its Southern side is covered with cliffs, considered to be one of the Top 10 Mountains of Taiwan.

Mountain Routes

The mountain trails in Yushan National Park are categorized according to difficulty, potential risks, camping conditions and the climber's stamina and equipment.

- Advanced Trails:** Yushan Peak Trails, Southern Line Section 2, Mengbolasi Mountain rail, Batongguan Historic Trail, Xinkang Mountain
- Intermediate Trails:** Yushan Main Peak, Nanheng Triple Mountain Routes, Guanshan Routes, Yunlong Falls to Batongguan, Jiayin to Walami
- Recreational Trails:** Dongpu to Yunlong Falls, Shanfeng to Jiayin, Tian Pond to Central Guanxian and Tataka, Meishan, and Tian Pond Recreational Trails

For more detailed information on available routes and entry permits, please visit our website at: <http://www.ysnp.gov.tw/>

Itineraries to Yushan National Park

- [To North Western Park]**
- Nantou Shueili → Heshe → Tataka Visitor Center
 - Nantou Shueili → Heshe → Dongpu
 - Chiayi → Alishan → Tataka Visitor Center
- [Southern Park]**
- Southern Park (Nanheng Highway is currently under construction. Please contact (07)6751014 or (089)811024 to confirm that the roads are open)
- Tainan → Jiasian → Baolai → Meishan Visitor Center → Tian Pond → Yakou
 - Taidong → Haiduan → Lidao → Yakou → Meishan Visitor Center
- [Eastern Park]**
- Yuli → Zhuolu → Nan-an Visitor Center → Shanfeng Entrance