

玉山 Yushan National Park



Yushan National Park is located in the heart of Taiwan, and is an alpine national park. Mountains cover the landscape, and Yushan Main Peak, with a height of 3,952 meters, proudly stands as one of the highest mountains on islands in the world.

The geographical environment and ecosystem within the park vary greatly due to the extreme change in elevation. A vast diversity of plants and animals thrive from the lower sub-tropical zones to the frigid heights. The location and landforms support a rich ecosystem with a wide variety of wild plants and animals, including many endemic species. The scenery changes with the passing of the seasons, whether it is spring grass blanketing the landscape, summer flowers blooming, autumn leaves dancing with the wind, or the serene winter snow.



Yushan National Park

No. 515, Sec. 1, Jhongshan Rd., Shueili Township,
Nantou County 55344, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
Tel: (049) 277-3121~6; Fax: (049) 234-8274
<http://www.ysnp.gov.tw/>



Information

Headquarters & Shueili Visitor Center	(049)2773121
Paiyun Mountaineering Center	(049)2702228
Tataka Visitor Center	(049)2702200
Meishan Visitor Center	(07)6866181
Nanan Visitor Center	(03)8887560
Yushan Police Squad	(049)2775119
Tataka Police Squad	(049)2702203
Meishan Police Squad	(07)6780002
Nanan Police Squad	(03)8880900



© Mikado Pheasant

© Taiwan Bush Warbler

Wonders of Nature, Crafted by Nature

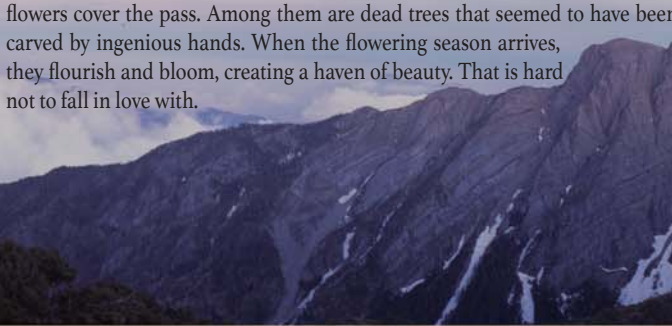


© Siougulan dead trees

Yushan National Park is known for its beautiful mountains; in fact, nearly one third of the mountains on the island are within the park grounds. Yushan was formed when the Eurasia Plate collided with the Philippine Sea Plate. This created a cross-shaped elevation which formed the main ridge line, with Yushan Main Peak at its center. When viewed from the southwestern side, its massive peaks look lofty and steep. From the northeast, Yushan stands elegantly like an emperor of legend. The grand view has always been greatly appreciated.

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

Mabolasih Mountain is also known as Wulameng Mountain. Because of its treacherous cliffs and steep hills, the mountain is considered to be among the top 10 steep peaks in Taiwan. Standing 3,785 meters high, this is where the Central Mountain Range turns to the side. The highest peak in the Central Mountain Range is Siougulan Mountain with an elevation of 3,825 meters. Connecting the Dashueiku Mountains is the wide and gentle sloping mountain pass of Siougulan (Siouguping). Rhododendrons, canes 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 Bittersweet Memories of The Batongguan Trail

Yushan National Park may have treacherous landscapes, but it has always been a site of human activities, especially the Batongguan Historic Trail with its surrounding tribes. Snaking along the peaks, the trail was a mountain route built during the Qing Dynasty. During the Japanese colonization, 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 reclusively among the forests of the park, silently safeguarding the remnants of time. Only the tourists, who occasionally pass by, can get a glimpse of its memory and observe the pages of its history.



© Shanfong Waterfall



© Duomeili



© Batongguan Grassland

The Bountiful Plantations and the Stream of Life



© Taiwan White Fir



© Yushan Gentian



© Taiwan Edelweiss

When people think of Yushan National Park, the first things that come to mind are its gigantic 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 vegetation regions: tropical rain forest, warm-temperate rain forest, warm-temperate coniferous (needle-leaved) forest, cold-temperate coniferous forest, alpine coniferous forest, and alpine tundra.

Landform and elevation are the two main factors that influence the plant growth within the park. The plants grow in distinctive regions, with firs and hemlock trees growing above 2,500 meters of elevation. Up to 3,600 meters high is the forest line where plants beyond it are often exposed to strong winds. Therefore, Yushan Junipers usually form short bushes with Yushan Rhododendron and other plants living around.

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 watershed, and many important rivers of Taiwan originate here, such as the Jhuoshuei River, the Gaoping River, and the Siougulan River.



© Yushan Rhododendron

The forests are the essence of the mountains. Though the park takes up only three percent of Taiwan's landmass, it plays an invaluable role in its ecology. Many plants were named after "Yushan", such as Yushan Gentian, Yushan Rhododendron, Yushan Cane, and Yushan Juniper. Some of these species were found initiatively within the Park. The founding of the national park made many native species 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 Carnation

The Endless Cycle of Life, a Haven for Animals

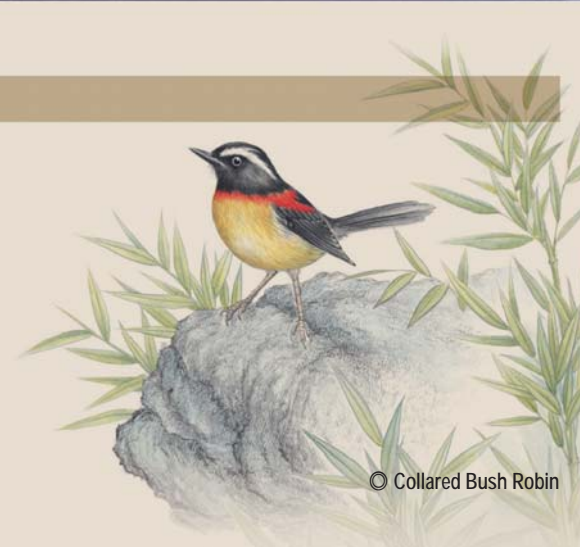
Spanning roughly 100,000 hectares, Yushan National Park possesses a huge variety of plants and landforms, thus providing its animals a bountiful environment, creating many ecosystems. Due to such uniqueness, the park is home to many unique animal species, including protected species such as the Formosan Black Bear, Taiwan Blue Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant, and the Alishan Salamander. In earlier times, these animals were highly valued and thus were excessively hunted. However, after the introduction of conservation laws, these animals now survive more safely and stably within the park.



© Rufous-bellied Blue Flycatcher



© Formosan Sambar



© Collared Bush Robin

There are now 196 bird species, 58 mammal species, 18 reptile species, 13 amphibian species, 826 insect species, and 12 fresh water fish species within the park, creating a complete and abundant ecological haven. However, apart from the inevitable natural disasters, the majority of the damage is still caused by humans.

The food chain keeps the ecosystem in balance. If one part of the environment is damaged or harmed, the entire ecosystem will be affected. The protection of natural environment 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



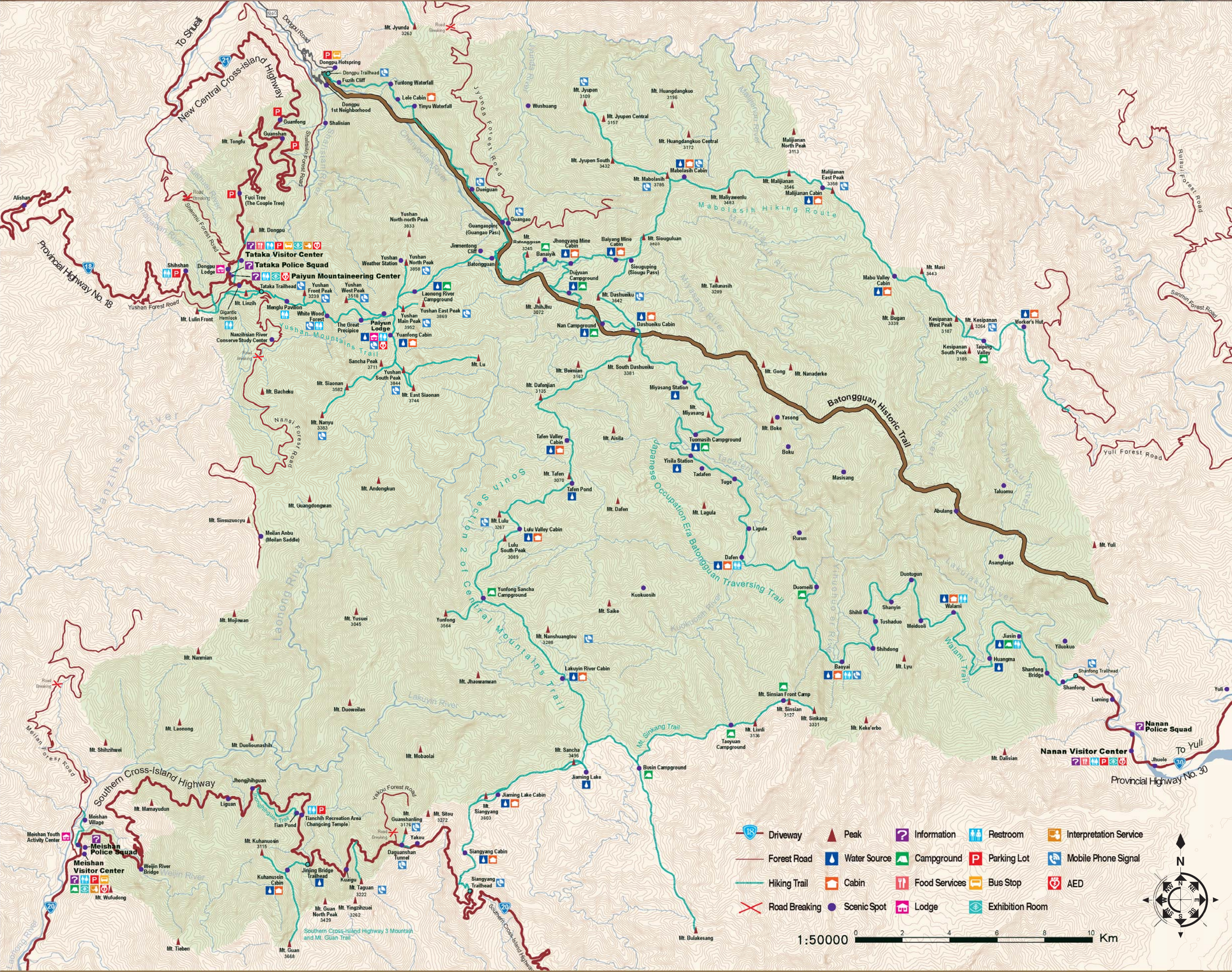
© Lime Butterfly



© Red and White Giant Flying Squirrel



Yushan National Park Maps



Points of Interest

- Batongguan:** The watershed divides between the Chenyulan River and the Laonong River. A past forest fire had left an extensive field of grass and canes.
- 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 Waterfall:** At an elevation of 1,640 meters, it is located at the entrance to the Batongguan Historic Trail. The waterfall has two sections, with the Historic Trail winding through the middle. Its size and water flow are breathtaking.
- Tataka Anbu (Tataka Saddle):** A large grass field in which Yushan and Alishan could be seen from its east and west ends, respectively.
- Yushan West Peak:** It's covered in fir forests. There is a temple from which the Yushan Main Peak 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 highest 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 three sides, coupled together with huge rocks and steep slopes. It is considered the most challenging of the top to steep peaks in Taiwan.
- Yushan South Peak:** Its ragged ridge has been given an alternative name, Tianlong peak, which means "Dragon peak", as it resembles a dragon. It is one of the Top 10 steep peaks in Taiwan.
- Guanshan Pass (Yakou):** Highest point of Southern Cross-island Provincial Highway, a hot spot for viewing the sunrise and clouds.
- Mt. Guan:** It's the highest peak among mountains of the southern Yushan area. When viewed from the Main Peak, it resembles a pyramid standing majestically among a sea of clouds.
- Siouglulan Pass (Siouguping):** Located between Siouglulan Mountain and Dashueiku Mountain. A forest fire decimated the forest that once flourished here, leaving pale trunks behind, dead but still standing.
- Mt. Siangyang:** Considered to be one of the 8 Beauties of Taiwan's mountains, its southwestern side is a huge indomitable cliff.
- Mt. Sancha:** Canes cover its gentle slopes and wide hills. It is one of the three biggest plains of the Central Mountain Range.
- Mt. Sinkang:** The highest peak in the eastern Taiwan, it is often speculated that the first sunlight of the year in Taiwan will always shine on it. It is a hot spot for climbers.
- Mt. Siouglulan:** Standing elegantly at 3,825 meters, it is not only the highest mountain in the Central Mountain Range, but also the third highest one in Taiwan, preceded only by Yushan Main Peak and Xue Mountain.
- Mt. Mabolashih:** The second highest peak in the Central Mountain Range, and one of the Top 10 steep peaks of Taiwan. There are all cliffs along its southern side.

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 Peaks Trails, South Section 2 of Central Mountains Hiking Route, Mabolashih Hiking Route, Batongguan Historic Trail, Mt. Sinkang Trail
 - Intermediate Trails:** Yushan Main Peak, Southern Cross-island Highway 3 Mountains Trail, Mt. Guan Trail, Yunlong Waterfall to Batongguan, Jiasin to Walami
 - Recreational Trails:** Dongpu to Yunlong Waterfall, Shanfong to Jiasin, Tian Pond to Jhongjihguan Trail and trails around Tataka, Meishan, and Tianchih recreation areas.
- ※ For more detailed information on available routes and entry permits, please visit our website at: <http://www.ysnp.gov.tw/>
- ※ The groups more than five are suggested to purchase mountain climbing insurance.

Itineraries to Yushan National Park

【To North Western Park】

- New Central Cross-Island Highway:
Nantou Shueili → 30K Heshe → 43K Tataka Visitor Center
- Nantou Country Road No. 60
Nantou Shueili → 30K Heshe → 8K Dongpu
- Provincial Highway No.18
Chiayi → 75K Alishan → 21K Tataka Visitor Center

【Southern Park】

- ※ Southern Cross-Island Highway is currently under construction. Please contact (07) 6751014 or (089) 811024 to confirm that the roads are open.

- From the West:
Tainan → 59K Jiasin → 21K Baolai → 30K Meishan Visitor Center
→ 25K Tianchih → Yakou
- From the East:
Taitung → 50K Haiduan → 31K Lidao → 28K Yakou
→ 27K Meishan Visitor Center

【Eastern Park】

- Provincial Highway No. 30
Yuli → 8K Thuole → 2K Nanan Visitor Center
→ 6K Shanfong Trailhead

