Firefly Watching in Taiwan

30 Year-round Must-visit Firefly Viewing Spots in Taiwan
Did you know that Taiwan is a country of rich biodiversity as well as one of the world's most renowned hotspots for firefly viewing? About 2,000 recorded species of firefly exist in the world; Taiwan has around 65, while neighboring, much-larger Japan has only 52. With a land mass that accounts for only 0.025% of the world’s total, Taiwan has an average of 2 species of firefly for every 1,000 square kilometers of land. In firefly density, Taiwan trails only Jamaica (with 4.561 species per sq. km.) and Costa Rica (with 4.893 species). The general public has little knowledge about fireflies, usually believing that these creatures are all aquatic; in fact, except for the 3 aquatic species and 1 semi-aquatic species, all of Taiwan’s fireflies are terrestrial. In accordance with their living habits and distribution, there are opportunities to see these “sparkling lights” from Taiwan’s plains to high mountains throughout the year.

Firefly research by local scholars in Taiwan started around 1990, and in recent years numerous farms and forest recreation areas have organized seasonal firefly-viewing events. When the government proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Ecotourism, firefly viewing became a popular tourist activity; hundreds of thousands of visitors starting flocking to different areas to view fireflies each spring, creating a boom in ecotourism. In addition to promoting the concept of firefly conservation, this trend allows the general public to understand the firefly ecosystem, further advances the protection of natural habitats and fireflies, indirectly boosts local development, and stimulates industrial upgrading and transformation.
This “Firefly Watching in Taiwan” brochure is more than a map for discovering fireflies; it is also a professional guide enriched with knowledge on conservation. Besides the selected 30 firefly viewing spots in northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan, as well as the offshore islands, different commonly seen firefly species are clearly indicated based on level of conservation, habitats, and viewing periods. With additional images profiling the fireflies, this brochure lets you appreciate their beauty while learning in-depth about these “lantern-carrying” insects.

30 Must-visit Firefly Viewing Spots
(in Northern, Central, Southern, and Eastern Taiwan, and the offshore islands)

1. The Keelung Area
2. Yangmingshan National Park
3. Taipei City
4. Pingxi District, New Taipei City
5. Wulai District, New Taipei City
6. Fuxing District, Taoyuan City, along the Northern Cross-Island Highway
7. Neiwan and Jianshi Townships, Hsinchu County
8. Guanwu Forest Recreation Area
9. Nanzhuang Township, Miaoli County
10. Xitou Nature Education Area
11. Yuchi Township, Nantou County
12. Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area
13. Huisun Forest Station
14. Dongshi Forest Garden
15. Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area
16. Gukeng Township, Yunlin County
17. Alishan National Scenic Area, around Fenqihu
18. Ruili Scenic Area
19. Guanziling Scenic Area
20. Meiling Scenic Area
21. Meinong District, Kaohsiung City
22. Maolin National Scenic Area
23. Shuangliu National Forest Recreation Area
24. Kenting National Park and Hengchun Peninsula
25. Taroko National Park
26. Liyu Lake
27. Jhihben(Zhiben) National Forest Recreation Area
28. Green Island (Ludao)
29. Kinmen
30. The Matsu Islands
How to Distinguish Between Male and Female

1. Winged – appearance is similar to that of male fireflies, but the body is normally larger with only one light-emitting organ. Ex: Abscondita cerata and Abscondita ancyei
2. Sheath-winged – wings are slightly less evolved, but still cover a certain area of the abdomen. Ex: Luciola curtithorax
3. Wingless - wings are clearly degraded or even inexisttent. Appearance resembles that of a larva known as “Neoteny” (details in OhBear Classroom). The second and the third types of females are flightless, and can only light up on ground level or at the height of grass fields, waiting for male fireflies to mate with them. Ex: Pyrocoelia praetexta and Diaphanes ampyroides.

Most male fireflies have two light-emitting organs with two complete sets of wings to enable smooth flying, whereas female fireflies have three different forms:

1. Neoteny: the phenomenon of adult organisms retaining immature juvenile features.

Most firefly species have light-emitting organs as adults, but some diurnal fireflies are lightless. Not all fireflies will glow! A light-emitting organ that resembles a flashlight is found at the bottom of the abdomen of fireflies. This organ is composed of light-emitting cells, reflection cells, and transparent skin and pipes. The light-emitting cells act as lightbulbs and produce a glow though chemical reaction. The glow is then reflected out by the reflection cells. This light is not hot, and each firefly species can emit different lights at various wavelengths. Besides the commonly seen yellow and green glows, an orange light exists as well! This ray of light is used to exchange information, attract a mate, or alert others. Certain foreign firefly species can even use the light to catch their food.
Fireflies belong to the order Coleoptera. They undergo complete metamorphosis, with four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Most larvae are carnivorous, having a large thorny jaw to capture prey and eat. A newly hatched larva is in the first stage of development, and it progresses one stage with each molting. Larvae usually undergo 5-7 moltings (depending on species) before pupation occurs.

Terrestrial firefly eggs are laid within crevices in dark and damp stones, mosses, or soils. Once larvae are hatched, they grow in the forest understory. As they gradually mature, they begin entering into crevices or the soil to get ready for pupation. Aquatic firefly eggs, on the other hand, are found near damp grass or moss along waterways. Once larvae are hatched, they enter the water to capture small or medium sized shellfish or snails as food. Once they mature, they climb onto the ground, searching for damp and dark areas to pupate. The stages of pupation allow the body organs to completely develop and wings to grow, following which the insects emerge from the pupae to look for other fireflies to mate with and produce the next generation.
Firefly Viewing in Northern Taiwan

1. The Keelung Area
   - Abscondita cerata, Abscondita chinensis, Pyrocoelia analis, and Diaphanes citrinus

2. Yangmingshan National Park
   - Aquatica ficta, Abscondita cerata, Abscondita ancieyi, Luciola kagiana,
   - Luciola filiformis, Diaphanes formosus, and Pyrocoelia analis

3. Taipei City
   - Aquatica ficta, Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Pyrocoelia analis, and Abscondita chinensis

4. Pingxi District, New Taipei City
   - Abscondita cerata, Aquatica ficta, Abscondita chinensis, Diaphanes citrinus,
   - Luciola filiformis, Abscondita ancieyi and Luciola kagiana

5. Wulai District, New Taipei City
   - Abscondita cerata, Luciola filiformis, Luciola curtilhorax, Diaphanes citrinus,
   - Pyrocoelia praetexta, Aquatica hydrophila

6. Fuxing District, Taoyuan City, along the Northern Cross-Island Highway
   - Abscondita cerata, Luciola filiformis, Luciola curtilhorax, Lamprigera yunnana,
   - Diaphanes lampyroides, Diaphanes ampyroides, Diaphanes nubilus,
   - Diaphanes flavilateralis, and Lychnuris formosana

7. Neiwan and Jianshi Townships, Hsinchu County
   - Abscondita cerata, Abscondita ancieyi, Luciola satoi, Pyrocoelia praetexta,
   - Lamprigera yunnana, and Diaphanes lampyroides

8. Guanwu Forest Recreation Area
   - Diaphanes nubilus, Abscondita cerata, Abscondita ancieyi, Diaphanes flavilateralis, and Luciola filiformis
Yangmingshan National Park is a great location for nurturing a rich variety of animals and plants; this is also a great outdoor spot for Taipei City residents. Diverse types of fireflies are found in many areas of the park, such as *Aquatica ficta* at Zhuzihu; *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Luciola kagiana*, and *Luciola filiformis* at the Qingshan Nature Center and *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Diaphanes formosus*, and *Pyrocoelia analis* at Datun Nature Park.

Commonly seen: *Aquatica ficta*, *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Diaphanes formosus*, and *Pyrocoelia analis*

Transportation: Take Bus No. 260 at Taipei Railway Station (North Exit 2), or take Bus No. R5 or S15 at MRT Shilin Station (Exit 1) or at MRT Jiantan Station (left side of Exit 1), or take bus No. 230 or S9 at MRT Xinbeitou Station (at Beitou Park bus stop on nearby Guangming Street or Xinbeitou bus stop on Quanyuan Road) to Yangmingshan National Park.
Taipei sits in a basin surrounded by mountains, making it easy for residents to embrace greenery and nature within a short drive. Several ecological inlets and wetlands are also hidden amongst the busy hustle and bustle of the city. You can view fireflies right in the city, at Mucha Park, Xianjiiyan Hiking Trail, or Fuyang Eco Park, where these insects glow at night between April and October each year.

- **Commonly seen:** *Aquatica ficta*, *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Pyrocoelia analis*, and *Abscondita chinensis*
- **Transportation:** Mucha Park (No. 50, Xinlong Road, Section 4, Wenshan District, Taipei). Take bus No. 237 or 611 at MRT Wangfang Hospital Station (going toward Taipei City Zoo) or bus No. 671 or G2L/G2R (going toward Taipei Jingmei Girls High School). Get off at the Mucha Park bus stop. Fuyang Eco Park (Wolong Street, Da’an District, Taipei) Take bus No. 3, 5, 18, 36, 72, 285, 292, 293 or 294 to MRT Lingua Station. Leave the station at Exit 1 and walk to the corner of Fuyang Street. Turn left and continue on to the park.

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Pingxi is one of the most famous tourist spots of New Taipei City. Rows of traditional street houses are still visible on the street. Each year in April and May, in areas along Xiping Road up to Pingxi Street, Pingxi Elementary School and Pingxi District Office, it is easy to observe quite a good number of *Aquatica ficta* and *Abscondita cerata* glowing where there is little light pollution or street lights are not installed. The Pingxi District Office organizes regular guided firefly tours and activities.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Aquatica ficta*, *Abscondita chinensis*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Abscondita anceyi* and *Luciola kagiana*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA North Link Line train to Ruifang Train Station and transfer to the Pingxi Line, or go to the MRT Mucha Station and take a Taiwan Tourist Shuttle going to the Shifen Visitor Center (Shifen Waterfalls) and get off at Pingxi.
5. Wulai District, New Taipei City

Wulai District is surrounded by spectacular mountains, winding rivers, and hot springs. The area is known for its magnificent waterfalls and wonderful landscapes. This is another great spot in suburban Taipei for viewing fireflies. Xinxian Village along Provincial Highway 9, the Xinxian Trail, and Neidung Forest Recreation Area are where many firefly species are visible throughout the year except in winter. Some of the species seen here are *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, and *Aqualatica hydrophila*
- **Transportation:** Take a Taiwan High Speed Rail (THSR) or TRA train to Taipei Main Station. Transfer to the MRT Xindian Line and get off at MRT Xindian Station. Take bus No. 849 on the Wulai Line and get off at the Wulai Terminal.

6. Fuxing District, Taoyuan City, along the Northern Cross-Island Highway

The Northern Cross-Island Highway is a mecca for aficionados of amphibians, birds, and insects. A good variety of fireflies are found in this area, such as *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, *Diaphanes lampyroides*, and *Diaphanes ampyroides*, so many different events are organized throughout the year. The Qilan Forest Recreation Area has dense forests with great biodiversity. Walk along the hiking trails here and you can observe a great number of *Abscondita cerata* fireflies, sometimes accompanied by other species such as *Luciola satoi*, *Abscondita chinensis*, and *Abscondita anceyi*. The Mingchi Forest Recreation Area is cool and humid. From mid-October on, species like *Diaphanes lampyroides* and *Diaphanes ampyroides* are active in the area; other fireflies such as *Diaphanes flavilateralis* and *Lychnuris formosana* can also be seen, making this a great spot for firefly-watching during autumn and winter.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, *Diaphanes lampyroides*, *Diaphanes ampyroides*, *Diaphanes flavilateralis*, and *Lychnuris formosana*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Yilan Train Station. Exit station and take a taxi for about an hour. Alternatively, take a Capital Bus, Kamalan Bus or Kuokuang e-Bus to Yilan Bus Terminal and transfer to Kuokuang e-Bus No. 1744, 1745, 1750, or 1751 to the Qilan Forest Recreation Area. A walk of about 300 meters brings you to the Qilan Forest Recreation Area and the Qilan Villa.
Residents of Neiwan in Hsinchu County are mostly Hakkanese. From April to May, Neiwan is also a favorite firefly-viewing spot; after an afternoon of fine food, a walk along the hilly trail behind the old street lets you observe a large number of *Abscondita cerata*. Continue on in the direction of Yulao in Jianshi Township, and you can also see a good number of fireflies such as *Abscondita anceyi*, *Luciola satoi*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, and *Lamprigera yunnana*. Mt. Lidong is also a good place to view *Diaphanes lampyroides*.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Luciola satoi*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, and *Diaphanes lampyroides*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to the North Hsinchu Train Station. Transfer to the Neiwan Line and get off at Zhudong Train Station. Take another local train to Neiwan Train Station. You can also take a Hsinchu Bus on the Naluo, Neiwan, or Meihua line to Neiwan Station; then walk along Guangfu Road to Neiwan's old street.

The Guanwu Forest Recreation Area is a habitat for Taiwan’s own unique and endangered species. Viewing fireflies in the area is best during winter, particularly around December, when large numbers of *Diaphanes nubilus* provide enchanting sights. Keep an eye out along the roads that give access to the Guanwu Forest Recreation Area, because many commonly seen fireflies such as *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Diaphanes flavilateralis*, and *Luciola filiformis* can be observed here, with *Abscondita cerata* being greatest in number.

- **Commonly seen:** *Diaphanes nubilus*, *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Diaphanes flavilateralis*, and *Luciola filiformis*
- **Transportation:** There is currently no public transport to the area. If driving on your own is not possible, you can contact a local hotel or travel agency to arrange a package tour.
9. Nanzhuang Township, Miaoli County
- Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Diaphanes citrinus, Pyrocoelia analis, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Lamprigera yunnana

10. Xitou Nature Education Area
- Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Pyrocoelia praetexta, Lamprigera yunnana, Diaphanes lampyroides and Diaphanes citrinus

11. Yuchi Township, Nantou County
- Abscondita cerata, Abscondita chinensis, Aquatica ficta, Pyrocoelia praetexta, Diaphanes citrinus, and Curtos sauteri

12. Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area
- Pyrocoelia praetexta

13. Huisun Forest Station
- Abscondita cerata, Luciola filiformis, Luciola curtithorax, Diaphanes citrinus, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Diaphanes formosus

14. Dongshi Forest Garden
- Abscondita cerata, Abscondita chinensis, and Pyrocoelia praetexta

15. Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area
- Pyrocoelia praetexta, species of the genus Curtos, Diaphanes lampyroides, Diaphanes nubilus, and Diaphanes formosus

16. Gukeng Township, Yunlin County
- Abscondita cerata, Abscondita chinensis, and Pyrocoelia praetexta
Yangmingshan National Park is a great location for nurturing a rich variety of animals and plants; this is also a great outdoor spot for Taipei City residents. Diverse types of fireflies are found in many areas of the park, such as Aquatica ficta at Zhuzihu; Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Luciola kagiana, and Luciola filiformis at the Qingshan Nature Center and Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Diaphanes formosus, and Pyrocoelia analis at Datun Nature Park.

Commonly seen: Aquatica ficta, Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Luciola kagiana, Luciola filiformis, Diaphanes formosus, and Pyrocoelia analis

Transportation: Take Bus No. 260 at Taipei Railway Station (North Exit 2), or take Bus No. R5 or S15 at MRT Shilin Station (Exit 1) or at MRT Jiantan Station (left side of Exit 1), or take bus No. 230 or S9 at MRT Xinbeitou Station (at Beitou Park bus stop on nearby Guangming Street or Xinbeitou bus stop on Quanyuan Road) to Yangmingshan National Park.

Located in the northeastern part of Miaoli County, Nanzhuang is mainly populated by Hakka and Saisiyat peoples. March and April are not just the tung blossom season, but also the time for fireflies to emerge in large numbers here. Xiangtian Lake, the Penglai River banks, and Luchang are some of the recommended places to see the fireflies.

Commonly seen: Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Diaphanes citrinus, Pyrocoelia analis, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Lamprigera yunnana

Transportation: Take Kuokuang e-Bus from the Taipei Bus Station to Toufen. Transfer to a Miaoli Bus to Nanzhuang. You can also take a TRA train to Zhunan Train Station. Another choice is to take the Nanzhuang Line of the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle directly to Nanzhuang (terminal stop).

Commonly seen: Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Pyrocoelia praetexta, Lamprigera yunnana, Diaphanes lampyroides, and Diaphanes citrinus

Transportation: Take a Kuokuang e-Bus at the Taipei Bus Station to the Nantou area. You may also take a TRA train to Taichung Train Station or THSR Taichung Station and then transfer to a bus to your destination in Nantou. You can also choose to get a bus from the Puli Bus Terminal to Qingjing, Sun Moon Lake, or Xitou. Xitou can also be reached via the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle.

This forest recreation area is located in Lugu Township, Nantou County and is part of the Experimental Forest of the College of Bio-Resources and Agriculture, National Taiwan University. The Abscondita cerata can be seen in abundance from April to May each year; the Pyrocoelia praetexta, Lamprigera yunnana, and Abscondita anceyi, among others, are present during the transition from summer to autumn, while the Diaphanes lampyroides appears in winter. Fireflies can be observed by the University Pond and Conifer Specimen Arboretum, among other spots.

Commonly seen: Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Pyrocoelia praetexta, Lamprigera yunnana, Diaphanes lampyroides, and Diaphanes citrinus

Transportation: Take a Kuokuang e-Bus at the Taipei Bus Station to the Nantou area. You may also take a TRA train to Taichung Train Station or THSR Taichung Station and then transfer to a bus to your destination in Nantou. You can also choose to get a bus from the Puli Bus Terminal to Qingjing, Sun Moon Lake, or Xitou. Xitou can also be reached via the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle.
11. Yuchi Township, Nantou County (Lotus Pond, Sun Moon Lake)

Yuchi Township is a mountainous area located in central Nantou County and comprising multiple basins. Two major spots for viewing fireflies here are Sun Moon Lake and Lotus Pond. *Abscondita cerata* and *Curtos sauteri* fireflies can be seen under the trees by Sun Moon Lake’s lakeside trails every spring and summer. *Abscondita cerata*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, and *Aquatica ficta* are some of the fireflies that can be seen in summer and autumn at Lotus Pond.

- Commonly seen: *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita chinensis*, *Aquatica ficta*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, and *Curtos sauteri*

- Transportation: Take a TRA train to Taichung Train Station or a THSR train to THSR Taichung Station, and transfer to a bus. You can also take a Taiwan Tourist Shuttle bus to Sun Moon Lake.

12. Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area

The Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area is located in the valley where the Wanda South River and the Wanda North River meet in Ren’ai Township, Nantou County. Autumn is the ideal firefly season in Aowanda. The main firefly species here is the *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, of which both the adults and larvae can be seen flickering among the grass along the trails.

- Commonly seen: *Pyrocoelia praetexta*

- Transportation: Take a KuoKuang e-Bus to Puli Station. Transfer to a Nantou Bus to the Wanda Stop, then walk 11 km to the Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area. You can also take a TRA train to Taichung Train Station or Nantou Train Station and transfer to a Nantou Bus going to Puli and get off at the Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area stop.
A wide variety of fireflies can be seen at the Huisun Forest Station starting in spring: there are the *Abscondita cerata* from March to April, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, and *Diaphanes citrinus* in summer, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, *Diaphanes formosus*, and more in autumn.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola filiformis*, *Luciola curtithorax*, *Diaphanes citrinus*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, and *Diaphanes formosus*
- **Transportation:** Take a THSR train to THSR Taichung Station and transfer to a Nantou Bus going to Puli Bus Terminal; there, catch a shuttle bus to Huisun Forest Station. Or you may take a Nantou Bus from Taichung Bus Station (Gancheng Station).

Different species of fireflies can be seen in the spring and summer-autumn seasons: *Abscondita cerata* are active from March to April, when groups of this species appear by the firefly trails and roads in the Garden, while larger species like the *Pyrocoelia praetexta* emerge in summer and autumn.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita chinensis*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Fengyuan Train Station and switch to a No. 209 Fengyuan Bus to the Station.
15. Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area

The Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area is located in Hoping District of Taichung City on the rear part of the main southwest ridge of the Xueshan Range. Every year starting in April, fireflies of the genus Curtos can be seen flickering the blue-green lights from the 20k to 32k marks of the Dasyueshan Forest Road. Other species such as the *Diaphanes lampyroides*, *Diaphanes nubilus*, and *Diaphanes formosus* appear from autumn to winter.

- **Commonly seen:** *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, species of the genus Curtos, *Diaphanes lampyroides*, *Diaphanes nubilus*, and *Diaphanes formosus*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Taichung Train Station and transfer to a Fengyuan Bus (for Dongshi). At the Dongshi Stop, catch another Fengyuan Bus (for the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area) and get off at Dasyueshan Stop.

16. Gukeng Township, Yunlin County

Gukeng Township, located in northern Yunlin County, is home to the Caoling and Shibi scenic areas which are ideal for watching fireflies. Spring and summer are firefly season in this area, with *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola satoi*, and *Abscondita anceyi* appearing around April to May, and *Diaphanes citrinus* and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, among other species, emerging after mid-summer.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita chinensis*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Douliu Train Station and transfer to a Solar Bus to Caoling and Shibi.
17. Alishan National Scenic Area, around Fenghu
   Diaphanes lampyroides, Abscondita cerata, Curtos obscuricorpus, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Diaphanes nubilus

18. Ruili Scenic Area
   Abscondita cerata, Abscondita anceyi, Abscondita chinensis, Luciola kagiana, and Pyrocoelia praetexta

19. Guanziling Scenic Area
   Abscondita cerata, Abscondita chinensis, Luciola satoi, Lamprigera yunnana, Luciola kagiana, Luciola filiformis, and Abscondita anceyi

20. Meiling Scenic Area
   Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Abscondita anceyi, Abscondita chinensis, Pyrocoelia praetexta, Pyrocoelia analis, Pyrocoelia formosana, Lychnuris formosana, Lamprigera yunnana, Stenocladius bicoloripes, Curtos, Luciola filiformis, and Luciola curtithorax

21. Meinong District, Kaohsiung City
   Abscondita anceyi, Abscondita cerata, and Luciola kagiana

22. Maolin National Scenic Area
   Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Luciola satoi, Abscondita anceyi, Curtos sauteri, and Pyrocoelia praetexta

23. Shuangliu National Forest Recreation Area
   Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Abscondita anceyi, Lamprigera yunnana, and Pyrocoelia praetexta

24. Kenting National Park and Hengchun Peninsula
   Abscondita chinensis, Curtos impolitus, Luciola satoi, and Pyrocoelia analis
17. Alishan National Scenic Area, around Fenqihu

Fenqihu---“Dustpan Lake”---is named for the shape of its terrain. Each year, a vast number of *Diaphanes lampyroides* appear from October to December, when swarms of these fireflies are seen everywhere. *Abscondita cerata*, *Curtos obscuricolor*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta* can be observed from spring to autumn. In addition, the Alishan National Scenic Area is accessible from Fenchiuh via the No. 18 Provincial Highway. Lush, precious primeval hinoki cypress forest grows on Alishan; as this is a high-elevation area, the dominant firefly species are winter-active ones like the *Diaphanes lampyroides* and *Diaphanes nubilus*.

- Commonly seen: *Diaphanes lampyroides*, *Abscondita cerata*, *Curtos obscuricolor*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, and *Diaphanes nubilus*
- Transportation: Take Kuokuang e-Bus to Chiayi Station then transfer to a bus for Alishan Station, or you may choose to catch a bus for Shihjhuo-Fenchihu, Alishan, or Dabang at Chiayi Bus Station. You may also take a THSR train to Chiayi and catch an Alishan Line bus of the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle at THSR Chiayi Station.

18. Ruili Scenic Area

Primeval forests of Ruili Scenic Area occupying large proportions of the area along with humid climate conditions contribute to an ideal environment for firefly reproduction, resulting in large populations which make this area a popular spot for firefly-watching in southern Taiwan. From early spring to late autumn, fireflies can be seen everywhere by the trails and under the trees. On top of that, *Abscondita cerata* appear in large groups from March to May, attracting grownups and children alike to observe the fireflies as well as the stars.

- Commonly seen: *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Abscondita chinensis*, *Luciola kagiana*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*
- Transportation: Take a Ruifeng-bound bus at Chiayi Bus Station. The bus passes through Meishan and Taiping before arriving at Ruili.
Located in eastern Baihe, Tainan City, the Guanziling Scenic Area is embraced by mountains and famous for hot springs. Because the surrounding mountains and forests are able to remain primeval with little human intervention, fireflies can be seen in abundance in the area.

- Commonly seen: *Abscondita cerata*, *Abscondita chinensis*, *Luciola satoi*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Luciola filiformis*, and *Abscondita anceyi*
- Transportation: Take a TRA train to Xinying Train Station. Transfer to a Yellow Line bus and get off at Baihe Stop. Catch a Yellow 12 or Yellow 13 bus to the Baoquan Bridge, Haohanpo or Guanziling stop. You may also take Chiayi Bus No. 7214 (Chiayi-Guanziling) at Chiayi Train Station and get off at the Guangziling, Fungo House, or Lingding Park stop. Another way to go is by taking the Wusanto-Guanziling Line of the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle at Xinying Bus Station.

The firefly season of Meiling lasts from April to June, with *Abscondita cerata* being the majority species and Chushuikeng on the Wulong Trail being the hot observation site.

- Commonly seen: 13 species including *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Abscondita chinensis*, *Pyrocoelia praetexta*, *Pyrocoelia analis*, *Pyrocoelia formosana*, *Lychnuris formosana*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, *Stenocladius bicoloripes*, *Curtos*, *Luciola filiformis*, and *Luciola curtithorax*
- Transportation: Public transport gets you only as far as the Meiling Information Center Stop: Take a TRA train to Tainan Train Station, then catch a Green Line bus to the Yujing Stop. You can also take an Orange Line bus from Shanhua Train Station to the Yujing Stop, transfer to a Green 22 bus, and get off at the Meiling Stop. Follow the signs once you alight and walk to your destination.
Maolin Eco Park

21. Meinong District, Kaohsiung City

Meinong is ideal for getting close to animals and nature, with the Yellow Butterfly Valley being a must-visit location for ecology observers. The firefly season lasts from March to September, and *Abscondita anceyi*, *Abscondita cerata*, and *Luciola kagiana* are the majority species seen here.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita anceyi*, *Abscondita cerata*, and *Luciola kagiana*
- **Transportation:** Take a THSR train to THSR Zuoying Station and transfer to a “THSR Zuoying Station-Qishan South-Meinong” express bus. You can also take a TRA train to Kaohsiung Train Station (Kaohsiung Bus, Kaohsiung Stop) and catch Kaohsiung Bus No. 8028 to Yellow Butterfly Valley.

22. Maolin National Scenic Area

The Maolin National Scenic Area encompasses important butterfly valleys for the winter migration of Purple Crow Butterflies (*Euploea tulliolus*), an event that attracts domestic as well as foreign butterfly lovers. Besides butterflies, fireflies are abundant here, with swarms of *Abscondita cerata* appearing in Maolin Valley starting in April. Magnificent species can be seen in the Colored Butterfly Valley in Liugui.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita cerata*, *Luciola kagiana*, *Luciola satol*, *Abscondita anceyi*, *Curtos sauteri*, and *Pyrocoelia praetexta*
- **Transportation:** Take a THSR train to THSR Zuoying Station and catch bus No. 8025 (Kaohsiung-Liugui) to Xinwei Elementary School. There, catch the Xinwei Elementary School-Maolin bus to reach your destination. You can also use the North Pingtung Route of the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle service.
Located by the Southern Cross-Island Highway, this area of tropical monsoon climate features creeks, waterfalls, and plant diversity enhanced by lush primeval woods. The dark, humid conditions under the trees make this an ideal hideout for fireflies and small animals. Many species of fireflies can be seen here from March to October, with Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Abscondita anceyi, and Lamprigera yunnana being the most common. October is the peak of activity for the Pyrocoelia praetexta, the males of which can be seen flying in swarms along the river valley.

Commonly seen: Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Abscondita anceyi, Lamprigera yunnana, and Pyrocoelia praetexta

Transportation: Take a TRA train to Kaohsiung Train Station. From the South Exit catch a bus for Taitung, or take a bus on the Taitung-Fenggang line, get off at Shuangliu Stop, and take a brief walk to the destination.

24. Kenting National Park and Hengchun Peninsula

Kenting National Park is one of Taiwan’s top tourist attractions with rich natural wonders and convenient transportation, it welcome millions of visitors each year. The fireflies here are different from those seen elsewhere, with Abscondita chinensis being in the majority around Sheding Village, and Abscondita anceyi and Lamprigera yunnana appearing occasionally.

Commonly seen: Abscondita chinensis, Curtos impolitus, Luciola satoi, and Pyrocoelia analis

Transportation: Take a TRA train to Kaohsiung Train Station, then transfer onto a bus (codeshare service by iBus, Kaohsiung Bus, Pingtung Bus, and KuoKuang e-Bus) directly to Kenting. You can also take a THSR train to THSR Zuoying Station, where express buses to Kenting are available.
25. Taroko National Park
Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Lamprigera yunnana

26. Liyu Lake
Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Luciola satoi, Abscondita anceyi, and Curtos impolitus

27. Jhihben(Zhiben) National Forest Recreation Area
Abscondita chinensis, Abscondita cerata, Aquatica hydrophila, Lamprigera yunnana, and Diaphanes citrinus

28. Green Island (Ludao)
Curtos costipennis and Curtos fulvocapitalis

29. Kinmen
Pyrocoelia analis and Sclerotia substriata

30. The Matsu Islands
Pyrocoelia analis, Rhagophthalmus beigansis, and Rhagophthalmus giallolateralus

Firefly Viewing in Eastern Taiwan and on Offshore Islands
Within Taroko Nation Park, both Buluowan and Mysterious Valley Trail (Shakadang Trail) are ideal for watching fireflies. These two spots are accessible via the Provincial Highway No. 8 (Central Cross-Island Highway) from Xiulin Township, Hualien County; as the Shakadang Trail is a mountain track and quite uneven, visitors are advised to look out for their safety.

- **Commonly seen:** Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Pyrocoelia praetexta, and Lamprigera yunnana
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Hualien Train Station or Xincheng Train Station. At Hualien Train Station, catch a Hualien Bus to Taroko or Chongde, or take the Taroko Line of the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle. At Xincheng Train Station (Taroko), exit and walk to Xingtian Bus Stop to catch a bus for the park.

Liyu Lake is located in Shoufeng Township, Hualien County and is managed by the East Rift Valley National Scenic Area Administration. Biodiversity is high in the surrounding areas, thanks to the temperate environment and clean waters. Fireflies can be seen along the road encircling the lake every spring to autumn, with Abscondita cerata outbreaks occurring around April to May.

- **Commonly seen:** Abscondita cerata, Luciola kagiana, Luciola satoi, Abscondita anceyi, and Curtos impolitus
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Hualien Train Station and catch a bus on the Hualien Bus line that goes to Shoufeng and Chinan. Get off at the Liyu Lake Stop.
Every year starting in April and May, *Abscondita cerata* and *Abscondita chinensis* fireflies can be seen flying in groups by the trails, whereas other species like *Aquatica hydrophila*, *Lamprigera yunnana*, and *Diaphanes citrinus* appear around summer to autumn.

- **Commonly seen:** *Abscondita chinensis, Abscondita cerata, Aquatica hydrophila, Lamprigera yunnana, and Diaphanes citrinus*
- **Transportation:** Take a TRA train to Taitung Train Station or Zhiben Train Station and transfer to the Mountain Line of the Ding Dong Bus. Get off at Hot Springs Stop and walk straight ahead for 300 meters.

27. Jhihben(Zhiben) National Forest Recreation Area

Fireflies can be seen in swarms here in April, with the section of round-the-island road near Guanyin Cave being the main observation place. Since there is no road lighting, the absence of light pollution means that the nighttime mating of the fireflies goes undisturbed.

- **Commonly seen:** *Curtos costipennis and Curtos fulvocapitalis*
- **Transportation:** Take a domestic flight from Taitung Airport or take a ferry from Taitung Fugang Fishery Harbor or Kenting’s Houbihu Pier to the island.

28. Green Island (Ludao)
29. Kinmen

Two major species of fireflies in Kinmen are the ubiquitous *Pyrocoelia analis*, which can be observed throughout the year, and the unique aquatic firefly *Sclerotia substriata*, appearing mainly along the waterways of Kinmen. Although salt water and fresh water meet and mix in the waterways, *Sclerotia substriata* are at home there as they are able to adapt to salt, and the primeval vegetation provides a habitat for their larvae.

- Commonly seen: *Pyrocoelia analis and Sclerotia substriata*
- Transportation: Kinmen Airport is connected by domestic flights from several airports on Taiwan. Three airlines (UNI Air, Far Eastern Air Transport, and Mandarin Airlines) serve Kinmen from Taipei, Taichung, Chiayi, Tainan and Kaohsiung.

30. The Matsu Islands

The Matsu Islands are the northernmost islands of Taiwan. Besides *Pyrocoelia analis*, which can be observed throughout the whole year here, two extraordinary luminescent beetles that do not belong to the Lampyridae Family are also present: the *Rhagophthalmus beigansis* and *Rhagophthalmus giallolateralus*. These belong to the Rhagophthalmidae Family, and their apterous and larviform females crawl up and glow on branches as they wait for males to fly in and mate. Females of the Rhagophthalmidae Family stay to protect their eggs and glow green as an alarm. After hatching, the larvae feed mainly on millipedes.

- Commonly seen: *Pyrocoelia analis, Rhagophthalmus beigansis (April to May), and Rhagophthalmus giallolateralus (February to April)*
- Transportation: Take a domestic flight from Taipei Songshan Airport to Matsu. You can also use ferry service from Keelung Port.
9 Rules for Firefly Watching

Fireflies prefer being in a natural environment without or with minimal disturbances. In such areas, fireflies, as well as other animals, gather in great numbers. As opportunities of firefly viewing increase, we sincerely hope that all visitors respect the two “Do Nots” when watching fireflies.

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**Do Not Disturb**

1. Do not startle snakes. When you encounter a snake, please do not panic. Be calm and retreat or wait patiently until it passes by. Never attack or harm snakes.

2. Fireflies are beautiful, but please refrain from using flash when taking photos.

3. Wear light, long pants and long-sleeve tops that are easy on body movement. Avoid the use of perfume and clothing with bright colors.

4. Keep your movements light and your noise down.

5. Do not catch or interfere with fireflies. Removal from their natural habitat means an acceleration of their death.

6. Please follow the instructions of the guide and park regulations.

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**Do Not Damage**

7. Keep off the soil and firefly habitats. Do not damage the natural environment.

8. Do not break off any plants and do not interfere with wild animals.

9. Remove your own trash to keep the environment clean and beautiful.
Travel Information Service Center
240 Dunhua N. Rd., Taipei
TEL: 0800-011-765
FAX: (02)8712-9173

Taichung Travel Section
1F, 95 Gancheng St., Nantun Dist., Taichung
TEL: (04)2254-8090, 0800-422-022
FAX: (04)2294-5485

Tainan Travel Section
10F, 243 Mingyuan Rd., Sec.1, Tainan
TEL: (06)226-5881, 0800-611-011
FAX: (06)226-4905

Kaohsiung Travel Section
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National Scenic Areas
Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area Administration
36 Xinglong St., Fulong Village, Gongliao District, New Taipei City
TEL: (02)2499-1115
URL: http://www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw

North Coast and Guanyinshan National Scenic Area Administration
33-6 Xinyukaneng, Demao Village, Shimen District, New Taipei City
TEL: (02)8635-5100
URL: http://www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw

Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area Administration
738 Zhongzheng Rd., Wufeng District, Taichung City
TEL: (04)2331-2678
URL: http://www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw

Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration
599 Zhongshan Rd., Shuishe Village, Yuchi Township, Nantou County
TEL: (049)285-5668
URL: http://www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw

Alishan National Scenic Area Administration
51 Checheng, Chukou Village, Fanlu Township, Chiayi County
TEL: (05)259-3900
URL: http://www.ali-nsa.net

Southwest Coast National Scenic Area Administration
119 Jiucheng, Beimen Village, Beimen District, Tainan City
TEL: (06)786-1000
URL: http://swcoast-nsa.travel/

Siraya National Scenic Area Administration
1-1 Xiancao, Xiancao Village, Bahie District, Tainan City
TEL: (06)684-0307
URL: http://www.siraya-nsa.gov.tw

Maolin National Scenic Area Administration
169 Dalian Rd., Dapeng Village, Donggang Township, Pingtung County
TEL: (08)833-8100
URL: http://www.dbnsa.gov.tw/

Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area Administration
25 Xincun Rd., Xinyi Village, Chenggong Township, Taitung County
TEL: (089)841-520
URL: http://www.eastcoast-nsa.gov.tw

East Coast National Scenic Area Administration
120 Lane Saijia, Saijia Village, Sandimen Township, Pingtung County
TEL: 0800-600-765
URL: http://www.maolin-nsa.gov.tw

East Rift Valley National Scenic Area Administration
168 Xinghe Rd., Sec. 2, Hegong Village, Ruisui Township, Hualien County
TEL: (0800)-000-115
URL: http://www.evnsa.gov.tw

Penghu National Scenic Area Administration
171 Guanghua Village, Magong City, Penghu County
TEL: (0800)-422-022
URL: http://www.penghu-nsa.gov.tw

Matzu National Scenic Area
95-1 Renai Village, Nangan Township, Lienchiang County
TEL: (0836)-256-31
URL: http://www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw

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C - Chinese Directory 104
D - English Directory 106
E - Foreign Affairs Police (02)2321-3175
F - 24hr. Tourist Hot Line 0800-011-765

Published by Tourism Bureau, Republic of China (Taiwan)
Publisher: Chou Yung-hui
Consulting Editors: Yang Ping-shih, Ho Chien-jung, Cho Yu-hsiu, Aketagawa Satoshi
Execution and Production: Firefly Conservation Association of ROC
Editors in Chief: Wu I-hsin, Lin Hsuan-yu, Chen Hui-ying
Authors: Lin Wenh-chi, Wu Piyueh, Wang I-cheh, Kao Shih-pi
Photo: Wang I-cheh, Fang Hua-der, Ho Chien-jung
Art Editor/Design: Printed by Chiu Chang Print
Published April 2017

Product group from well-managed forest, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber and use environmental ink.
1. Abscondita chinensis
Lampyridae | Abscondita
T JUN-AUG

Taiwan endemic species

2. Abscondita cerata
Lampyridae | Abscondita
T MAR-JUN

Conservation of wild animals

3. Pristolycus kanoi
Lampyridae | Pristolycus
Diurnal
MAR-JUN Shimmer

4. Pyrocoelia analis
Lampyridae | Pyrocoelia
T MAR-NOV

5. Pyrocoelia formosana
Lampyridae | Pyrocoelia
Diurnal
MAR-JUN Shimmer

6. Abscondita anceyi
Lampyridae | Abscondita
Nocturnality
APR-JUN

7. Aquatica ficta
Lampyridae | Aquatica
A MAR-MAY/SEP-OCT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Subfamily</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Luciola kagiana</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
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<td>APR-JUN</td>
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<td>Luciola curtithorax</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
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<td>MAY-JUL</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Aquatica hydrophila</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
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<td>MAR-MAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Sclerotia substriata</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
<td></td>
<td>APR-OCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Diaphanes formosus</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
<td></td>
<td>SEP-OCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Curtos sauteri</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAR-OCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Curtos obscuricolor</td>
<td>Lampyridae</td>
<td></td>
<td>APR-JUL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taiwan endemic species

15. **Drilaster olivieri**
   Lampyridae | Drilaster
   - **T** APR-JUN
   - Not glowing
   - Distribution: NC SE I

16. **Rhagophthalmus beigansis**
   Rhagophthalmidae | Rhagophthalmus
   - **T** APR-JUN
   - Distribution: NC SE I

17. **Rhagophthalmus giallolateralus**
   Rhagophthalmidae | Rhagophthalmus
   - **T** MAR-MAY
   - Distribution: NC SE I

18. **Luciola satoi**
   Lampyridae | Luciola
   - **T** APR-JUN
   - Distribution: NC SE I

19. **Luciola filiformis**
   Lampyridae | Luciola
   - **T** APR-JUL
   - Distribution: NC SE I

20. **Curtos impolitus**
   Lampyridae | Curtos
   - **T** MAY-SEP
   - Distribution: NC SE I

21. **Pyrocoelia praetexta**
   Lampyridae | Pyrocoelia
   - **T** SEP-NOV
   - Distribution: NC SE I
### Illustration Table

#### Habitual:
- **T**: Terrestrial
- **A**: Aquatic
- **AT**: Aquatic/terrestrial

#### Emergence period:
- **JAN-DEC**

#### Color:
- **Green**
- **Yellow-green**
- **Orange**
- **Yellow-Orange**

#### Habitat type:
- Grassland
- Pond
- Farmland
- Paddy fields
- Flat ground
- Stream
- Mountain stream
- Forest edge
- Forest

#### Region:
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands

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**22. Diaphanes lampyroides**

- Lampyridae | Diaphanes
- **T**: OCT-DEC
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands

**23. Diaphanes niveus**

- Lampyridae | Diaphanes
- **T**: OCT-DEC
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands

**24. Diaphanes nubilus**

- Lampyridae | Diaphanes
- **T**: OCT-DEC
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands

**25. Lamprigera yunnana**

- Lampyridae | Lamprigera
- **T**: OCT-DEC
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands

**26. Diaphanes citrinus**

- Lampyridae | Diaphanes
- **T**: SEP-OCT
- **N**: Northern
- **C**: Central
- **S**: Southern
- **E**: Eastern
- **I**: Islands