

Did you know ?

Taiwan is home to groups of Austronesian indigenous people who have lived on this island for over 8,000 years.

Did you know ?

Taiwan has sixteen officially recognized indigenous peoples, who each have their own native languages and culture.

Did you know ?

Alongside famous tourist magnets like Taroko Gorge, Alishan, Sun Moon Lake, and Kenting, you may also explore and experience the traditional lifestyles of aboriginal tribes around the island.

Ready for a journey to explore Taiwan's indigenous tribes ? Let's go !

uhtan'e ho mimimiyo

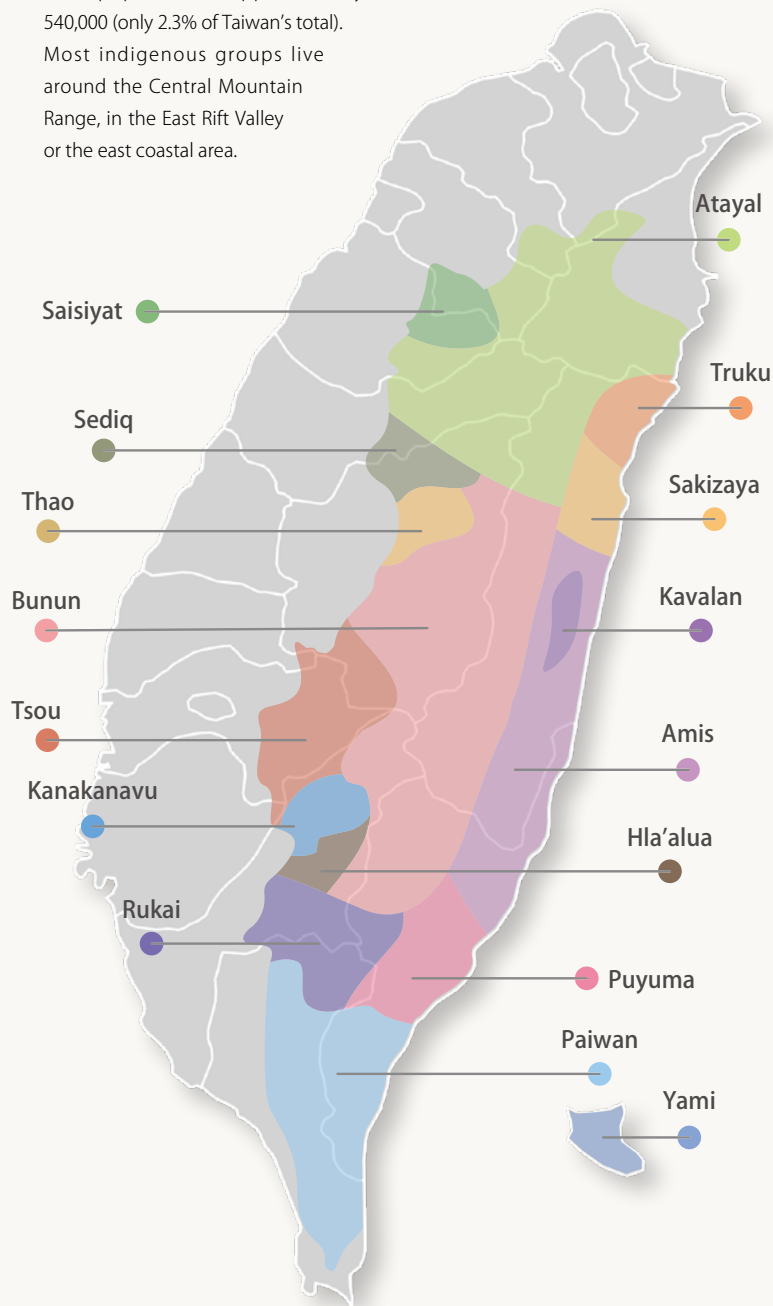
uhtan'e ho mimimiyo

in the Tsou language
means "Come, from one
village to another."



Distribution of Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan

Taiwanese indigenous peoples were the first settlers on this island. They have diverse cultural backgrounds and languages. Their population is approximately 540,000 (only 2.3% of Taiwan's total). Most indigenous groups live around the Central Mountain Range, in the East Rift Valley or the east coastal area.



- **Amis** — Or Pangcah. They live on plains around Mt. Chilai in northern Hualien, south to the coastal plains and the hilly areas of Taitung and the Hengchun Peninsula. They have a total population of about 177,000, which is the largest among Taiwan's indigenous peoples.
- **Atayal** — Distributed in the northern part of Taiwan's Central Mountain Range, including the area from north of Puli to Hualien. They have a total population of approximately 81,000.
- **Paiwan** — Scattered on both sides of the southern Central Mountain Range - from north to Mt. Dawu, south to Hengchun, west to Fangliao, and east to Taimali in Taitung. They have a population close to 86,000.
- **Bunun** — Scattered widely around Namasia of Kaohsiung, Haiduang of Taitung, as well as in Nantou County. They also live in areas of the Central Mountains at an average altitude of 1,000 to 2,000m, and have a total population of about 50,000.
- **Puyuma** — They inhabit the East Rift Valley and have a population of about 11,000.
- **Rukai** — They live around Maolin of Kaohsiung, Wutai of Pingtung and Donghsing Village of Taitung. They have a total population of about 11,600.
- **Tsou** — They mostly live in Alishan of Chiayi, Xinyi of Nantou and Taoyuan and Namasia of Kaohsiung. They have a total population of about 6,500.
- **Saisiyat** — They mostly live in Wufong of Hsinchu, and Nanjuang and Shirtan of Miaoli, with a population that is estimated at 5300.
- **Yami** — They inhabit the offshore Orchid Island, and have a population of about 3,500.
- **Thao** — A small tribe living in Yuchih and Shueili of Nantou. They have a population of about 600-700 people.
- **Kavalan** — They lived in Yilan in the past but nowadays they live in Hualien and Taitung. They number just over 1,100 people.
- **Truku** — Distributed across Hualien's Hsiulin, Wanjung and Ji'an Townships, as well as Nantou's Jen-ai Township. There are about 24,000 people in total.
- **Sakizaya** — They live on the Chilai plain in Hualien County and number about 350 people.
- **Sediq** — They are mainly distributed in areas along the border separating Nantou and Hualien, and have a population of about 10,000.
- **Hla'alua** — They are mostly distributed between Taoyuan and Namasia in Kaohsiung, and have a population of about 400.
- **Kanakanavu** — A total of about 520 people, who mostly live in Manga and Takanua in Namasia of Kaohsiung.

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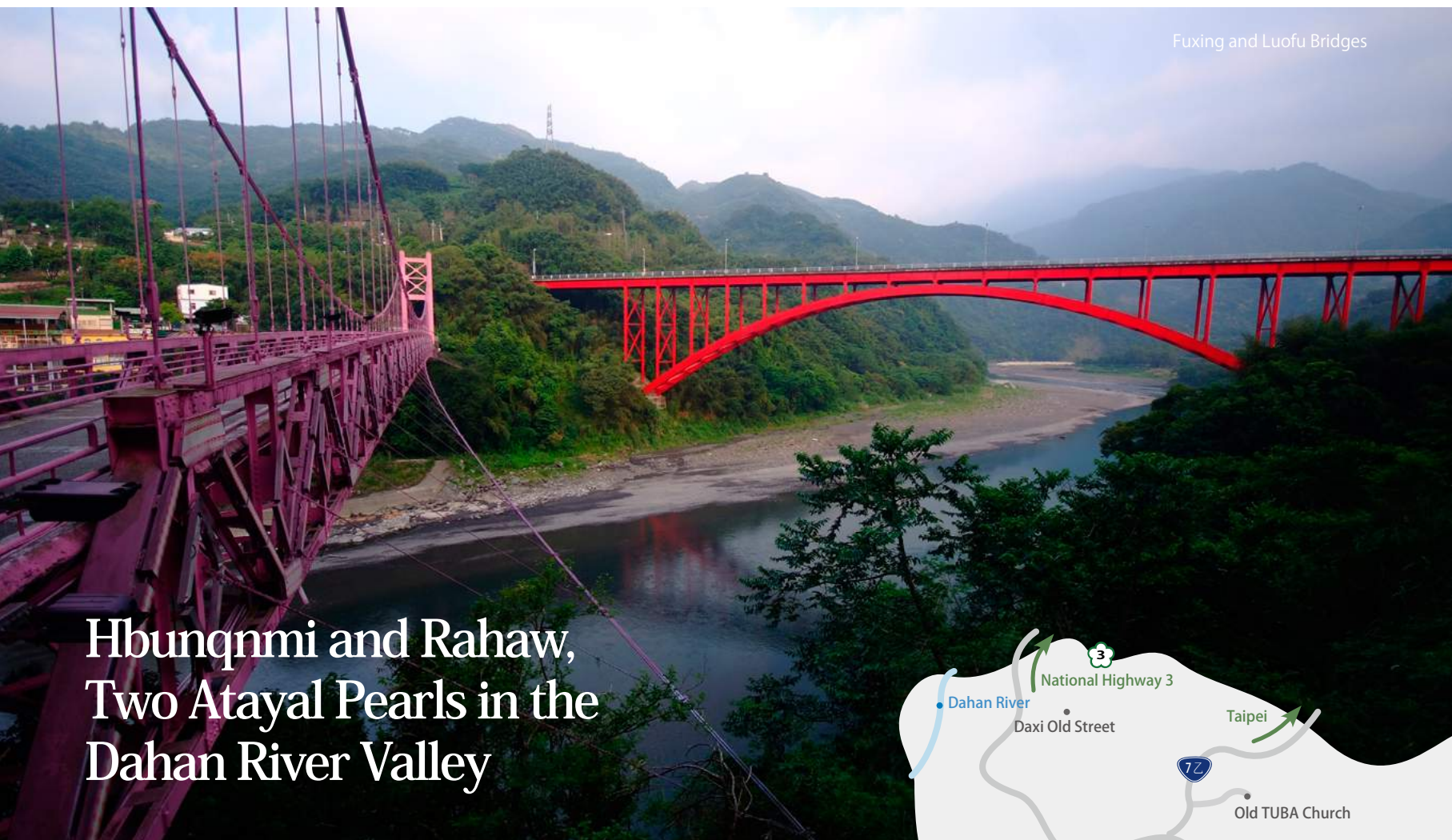
Location of the Indigenous Villages Included in This Tourist Guide

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Distribution of Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan



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Fuxing and Luofu Bridges

Hbungnmi and Rahaw, Two Atayal Pearls in the Dahan River Valley

The Northern Cross-Island Highway (Provincial Highway 7) is a scenic route across the high mountains between Taoyuan in the west and Yilan in the east. The view along the highway is quite magnificent, as it winds through quiet valleys and verdant mountains. Rahaw (Xikou) and Hbungnmi (Heliu), two Atayal villages, are located by the highway between Daxi and Fuxing. In these villages visitors can take in the spectacular views from high suspension bridges, visit a historic stone chapel, and enjoy traditional Atayal cuisine and hospitality.

A mural painting of
Atayal facial tattoos

MAP



A sculpture in Rahaw

Rahaw

As the Dahan River runs down from the mountains, it forms stunning river terraces in the valley of Jiaobanshan (角板山). These almost look like steps leading down to the river and are known as “bench terraces”. The aboriginal village, Rahaw, also known as “the extended stairs” in the Atayal language, is situated on a series of bench terraces along a big bend of the Dahan River. There are four steps on this terrace: Terraced fields sit on the upper two levels and lawns spread out on the bottom. The whole area is beautiful and regarded as ideal for research into geology and river landscapes.

Rahaw Suspension Bridge

Visitors may overlook Rahaw village from a pavilion on Jiaobanshan. They can then descend and reach the bench terraces by way of the Rahaw Suspension Bridge. This bridge has stood for more than forty years and it has excellent views of the Dahan River Valley and Shihmen Reservoir (石門水庫).



Upstream of Dahan River



Fried crispy Zacco (fish)



A statue of an Atayal woman

Local Cuisines That You Won't Want To Miss!

Most of the food the Atayal people enjoy comes from the forests, rivers and mountains surrounding their villages. It is a healthy and flavorful cuisine. In addition to eating, some practical activities, such as rice wine brewing and Atayal snack making, are recommended for visitors.

Traffic Information

By Car : National Highway 3 → Daxi Interchange → Provincial Highway 7 → Luofu Bridge → County Road 118 → Rahaw

By Bus : Take the Taoyuan Bus from Daxi towards Fuxing, get off at the Jiaobanshan or Fuxing Stop and go to the Rahaw Suspension Bridge via a trail. Or, take the Taoyuan Bus from Daxi towards Luofu and Gaorao and get off at the Xikoutai Stop.

Contact Organization/Person

Fu Hsing Tour Guide Association. 112-6, Luofu Village, Fuxing Dist., Taoyuan. TEL: +886-3-3821389 (Ms. Pei-Ti Lin)



Hbunqnmi

Going upstream along the Dahan river from Rahaw, we reach Hbunqnmi village. High bridges over the green river create a dramatic vista.

A Classic Scene from an Epic Movie

The two bridges, Fuxing Bridge in purple and Luofu Bridge in red, run almost parallel across a steep sided valley. Another bridge, Yixing Suspension Bridge, situated further upstream, is where part of the historic epic “Seediq Bale” was filmed. In a tense scene halfway across the bridge Seediq hero Mona Rudao confronts his enemy, Japanese General Kamada.

A Rustic Stone Chapel

This old chapel, formerly the TUBA church (基國派教堂), is located off Provincial Highway 7, near the village. It is made of stone and was built by the Ayatal people as a place to worship in 1963. The church no longer holds services and has been



A statue in the village



The Old TUBA church



Millet fields

replaced by a new one. However, the historical building is well-preserved and demonstrates the popularity of Christianity among Atayal communities in this area.

Traffic Information

By Car : National Highway 3 → Daxi Interchange → Provincial Highway 7 → Fuxing Gasoline Station → 4 km forward → Hbunqnmi

By Bus : Take the Taoyuan Bus from Daxi towards Luofu and Baling, and get off at the Helio Stop.

Contact Organization/Person

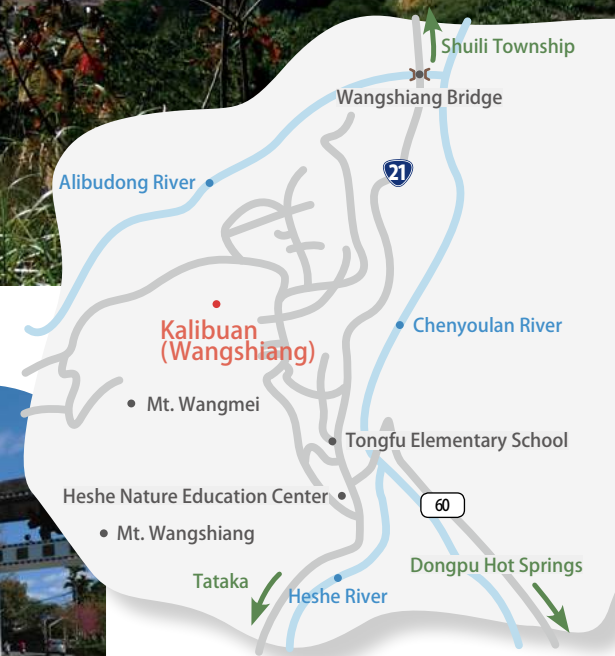
Fu Hsing Tour Guide Association, No.112-6, Luofu Village, Fuxing Dist., Taoyuan. TEL: +886-3-3821389 (Ms. Pei-Ti Lin)

Kalibuan, A Village Nestled at the Foot of Mt. Jade

Best known for their sophisticated polyphonic vocal music ("Pasibutbut" in the Bunun language), the Bunun people's ancestors lived on Mt. Luanda in the Central Mountain Range. During Japanese rule they were forced to move down from the mountain to lowland villages across Taiwan. Some of them settled at Kalibuan (Wangshiang), at the foot of Mt. Jade (Yushan). Their old chief constantly reminded them to never let the mountain disappear from their vision. Under the shadow of Yushan, diverse tribal practices have developed over many years.



The gateway to Kalibuan



MAP



Qiansui Suspension Bridge connecting Kalibuan and Aoumei Village

Kalibuan

Inscriptions on the Stone Walls

Villagers in Kalibuan have a peaceful life and make a living growing grains and fruit. The village's scenery of maple trees, Taiwan cherries, fruit trees and tea gardens varies with the changes of the seasons. On both sides of the village's main road are stone walls on which records and information about key festivals are engraved. Moreover, each family has their own stone wall that tells their family history.



Introduction to a family on their wall



Calendar schedule engraved on a wall

An Adventure on the Hunter's Trail

The Manyudosih Trail (馬奴多斯獵人古道) is a mountainous forest hike winding along the ridgeline at the rear of the village and leading to Mt. Wangmei. The trail provides commanding views of the whole village, the valley, and the peak of Yushan. This area is a traditional hunting ground for the Bunun.



Pigeon pea, the most important non-staple food for the Bunun



Vine Yard



A Bunun woman in traditional clothing

Traffic Information

By Car : National Highway 3 → Mingjian/Jiji Interchange → Provincial Highway 3 (to Jiji and Shuili) → New Provincial Highway 16 → Provincial Highway 21 → Xinyi Township → Tongfu Village (turn right) → Kalibuan

By Bus : Take Allda Bus from Gancheng Station (Taichung) to Shuili or take Yuanlin Bus to Heshe, Dongpu and Shenmu, and get off at Heshe Stop.

Contact Organization

Wangshiang Tourist Service Center. TEL : +886-4-92702683

Stone carving of Formosan wild boar in Pungu

Pungu and Cayamavana, Two Artist Villages in Alishan

The Alishan Highway, also known as Provincial Highway 18, is the main arterial road linking Chiayi City to the Alishan Forest Recreation Area. These high mountains are covered in ancient trees. From their ridges visitors can view magnificent seas of clouds, and then ride the legendary Alishan Forest Railway. The highway also crosses the territory of the Tsou people, who have developed a varied culture and art style in harmony with nature.



Alishan Forest Recreation Area



MAP



Varieties of wild boar stone carving

Pungu

In 1899 the Japanese discovered a large primary cypress forest in the Alishan area. They launched a variety of development projects including the building of a network of railways for the transportation of vast numbers of logs.

Greater Tashan Peak (大塔山), the highest peak of the Alishan Range, is often covered by a veil of cloud and is regarded as the sacred mountain for the Tsou tribe. Pungu (Laiji), formerly known as Lalatsi, is right beneath the mountain.

It is said that about 200 years ago some Tsou hunters, chasing wild boars, accidentally found this fertile land under the sacred mountain, and founded Pungu. They settled down here and the wild boar became the mascot of the village.

A Village of Artists

In Pungu, one can look up and worship Greater Tashan, climb the famous “Titanic” rock, and visit local art studios. Each artist in Pungu has their own style, and they create unique and valuable artworks. These include Taiwan cotton-rose bags, night owl shaped wood sculptures, paintings, and fur coats and hats.



Various artworks in Pungu

A Sculpture That Protects the Village

There is a wooden “penis” sculpture that stands at the entrance of the village on County Road 149A. When a landslide occurs due to torrential rain, the Tsou people believe it is caused by a goddess on Tashan Peak. They believe the masculinity of the sculpture helps placate the goddess.



The great wooden penis of Pungu

Traffic Information

By Car : National Highway 3 → Chiayi Interchange → Provincial Highway 18 → Transfer to County Road 169 at Shizhuo → Fenqihu → County Road 155 → Pungu

Contact Organization

Laiji Community Development Association. 32-1, Neighborhood 1, Laiji Village, Alishan Township, Chiayi County
TEL: +886-5-2661002



Cayamavana

Cayamavana (Chashan) is a remote village situated at the source of the Zengwen River. It is known for its beautiful natural landscape, well-preserved natural ecology, and the Great Stone Wall. The name "Cayamavana" means the plain on the mountain by the Tsou.

Recovering from a Devastating Typhoon

In 2009 the powerful Typhoon Morakot caused widespread devastation across southern Taiwan and also seriously damaged Cayamavana. The village has been reconstructed by villagers and gradually their agricultural way of life has returned.



A typical pavilion in Chashan

Pavilion Festival

Despite being a Tsou tribe, Cayamavana has no "Kuba". This is a house where, in Tsou tradition, young people must live while they undergo training in tribal ways before getting married. Instead of a Kuba, Cayamavana has many wooden pavilions that form a central part of the village's social life. Within these pavilions people exchange stories, share the catches from recent hunts, and eat together. The village holds a "Pavilion Festival" every November, during which each family will show off their wood carving art in front of the pavilions.

Traffic Information

By Car : National Highway 3 → Chiayi Interchange → Provincial Highway 18 → Turn right at Longmei → Cayamavana

Contact Organization

Chashan Community Development Association. 77, Neighborhood 4, Chashan Village, Alishan Township, Chiayi County

TEL: +886-5-2513321



Slate houses in Kungadavane

Kungadavane, A Village Safeguarded by Hundred-Pacers and Hawk Eagles

Living within the Maolin National Scenic Area, in the western foothills of the Central Mountain Range, the Rukai are one of Taiwan's oldest indigenous tribes. Their village at Kungadavane is an oasis of peace, far away from fast-paced cities. Visitors may enjoy tranquil views of the valleys and paddy fields, the sweet taste of rice wine, the warmth of natural hot springs, and the rich fragrance of the forest. Afterwards, listen to Rukai elders talk about the legend of their guardian spirit, the Hundred Pacer Snake. These highly venomous vipers are found in the mountain forests. Their name comes from the commonly held, but false belief, that after a bite a victim can only walk about a hundred paces before dropping dead.



Purple butterfly



MAP



An aboriginal slate house

Kungadavane

On the way to Kungadavane (Duona), you will enter the Maolin National Scenic Area and pass through the “Purple Butterfly Valley”. In winter, ten of thousands of purple butterflies migrate to this valley and stay here for months. After half an hour of driving past the valley, you’ll reach the village, where Rukai traditional culture has been preserved for centuries.

Well-ventilated Slate Houses

The most distinctive residential feature of Rukai villages are the slate houses. They are built entirely from locally available materials, such as black slate and shale. They’re built in such a way that they keep inhabitants warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The Rukai people build these houses with fine craftsmanship. Stone boards are stacked up one above another without the need for cement, and the gaps between the slates give the buildings good ventilation.



Wooden sculpture of hundred-pacers



Millet is important in Rukai’s traditional rituals.



Grilled boar on a stone slab



Headwear of the Rukai Chieftain

Different homeowners will decorate their homes based on their social status within the tribe. The chieftain, for example, may hang millet spikes on their lintels. They may also etch carvings of guardians and hundred-pacer snakes on their doorposts, which are symbols of their nobility.



The head tomb

Sacrificial Head Wall

Many years ago there were wars for territory and hunting grounds among indigenous peoples. When warriors of the tribe defeated their enemies they hacked their heads off. Many tribes practiced this custom and it was seen as vital to placate and receiving blessings from the gods. Kungadavane's shaman would cast a spell and place heads in spaces on a wall high above the village. The site where the sacrificial heads were placed has been preserved. The tomb where they were moved to has also been preserved. This tomb of heads is surrounded by sculptures of warriors, preventing the souls of the defeated from escaping.



Sacrificial head wall



The white lily is the Rukai's holy flower. The Rukai people respect hundred-pacers, hawks, and Formosan clouded leopards.

Warriors' Declamation Tower

The Warriors' Declamation Tower, near the Head Platform relic, is a five-floor high wooden structure. From here warriors declared to the tribe what they had hunted and thus proved their bravery.



A Hawk sculpture and a Rukai pottery sculpture standing before of Duona Bridge

Traffic Information

By Car : The entrance of the Maolin National Scenic Area → Kaohsiung Country Road 132 (heading north) → Maolin and Wanshan Villages → Kungadavane

By Bus : Take the Pingtung Bus or Kaohsiung Bus to Duona from Pingtung or Kaohsiung Bus Station

Contact Organization/Person

Na-Mei Next Three Communities Culture Development Association.
TEL: +886-989-156496 (Ms. Ipulu Kadravan)

Kucapungan, the Homeland of the Formosan Clouded Leopard

The Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park (Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Center) is located on the southern bank of the Ailiao River, and it is the transportation hub for three aboriginal townships—Sandimen, Majia, and Wutai. These towns are mainly inhabited by people belonging to the Paiwan and Rukai tribes. The park, founded in 1985, is Taiwan's largest aboriginal open-air museum. The tribal name of the village is Kucapungane, "the Homeland of the Formosan Clouded Leopard", in the Rukai language. The original Kucapungane (Haocha) Village was situated on the north bank of the Ailiao River, on the slopes of North Dawu Mountain, but it was destroyed during Typhoon Morakot. The people of old Kucapungane then moved to lowland areas and built the current Kucapungane Village.



The image of
Kucapungane (Haocha)



MAP



The chieftain's house

Kucapungan

They were joined by Rukai and Paiwan people from Dashe and Majia.



There are stories behind murals

Stories behind Murals

Nowadays Kucapungan village is modern, yet the people preserve their Rukai traditions. Each family demonstrates their own history by attaching ornaments, tattoos and sculptures to their houses. For example, if someone paints an image of a fast runner on their house, one of their family members must have been a great sportsperson. Some may directly paste medals to the walls to show everyone their glory. The most common mural features the white lily flower which is a symbol of sacred honor in Rukai culture.



The image of red footprints in Haocha

Barefoot and Saabaw

The main street of the village is also named Kucapungan in memory of the origins of the tribe. The street is painted with big red footprints. These represent the belief that taking off shoes and walking barefoot conveys an attitude of respect towards the land. The residents will treat you warmly if you take off your shoes when entering the village. The word "Saabaw" written in front of the footprints means "How are you?" in Rukai.



Building of a slate house



A mural on a stone wall



A painting signage board



Slate wall

Collective Farming and Sharing

Despite the hereditary hierarchical system, the Rukai people practice collective farming and sharing. People hand over to their chieftain what they have harvested and, during the millet harvest festival, the chieftain shares it with the poor or the warriors. When there's a big construction project in the village, everyone voluntarily works together and shares. The concept is a vital means of unifying the Rukai people.



Glazed beads



Welcome wreath



Cinavu



Abai

Glazed Beads and Aboriginal Specialties

Kucapungan is known for its handicraft products. The tribespeople also offer handicraft courses for visitors. These include the making of various glazed beads, wreaths, charms, fabrics, and stone slab painting. For the Rukai, glazed beads are precious and are regarded as a symbol of social class. In traditional culture, the Rukai people use the beads to pray for blessings.

Cinavu is one of the most important dishes in this tribe. It is meat mixed with fermented millet which is then wrapped in leaves and cooked. Abai, a special kind of tamale, is also one of the staple dishes for the Rukai.

Butterfly-pea

Kucapungan villagers do not grow regular tea, but they make a kind of blue tea that has a sweet, fragrant scent. It is made from the butterfly-pea plant by the Rukai. The tea is always served to guests in small glasses for hospitality.



Butterfly-pea flowers



"Butterfly-pea" tea

Traffic Information

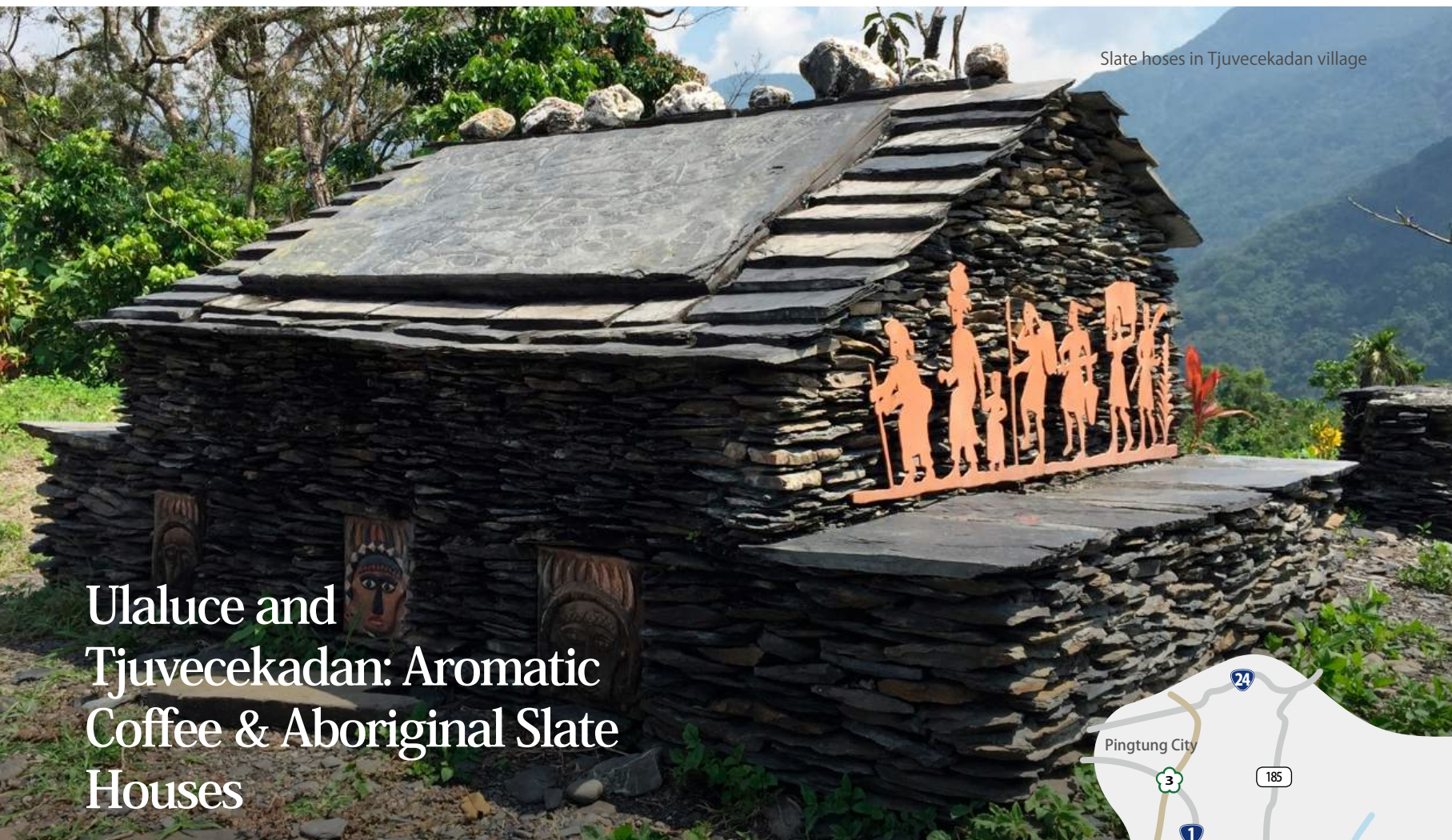
By Car: National Highway 3 → Changzhi Interchange → Provincial Highway 24 → Transfer to County Road 187 at Shuimen Community → Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park → Transfer to Pingtung Country Road 35 → Kucapungan

By Bus: 1. Take the Pingtung Bus towards Sandimen and Wutai, and get off at the Shuimen Stop, walking for 30 minutes.

2. Take the Taiwan Tourist Shuttle and get off at Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park, walking for 15 minutes.

Contact Person

Mr. Chen Shue-Xian TEL: +886-925-600863 / +886-8-7997198



Slate hoses in Tjuvecekadan village

Ulaluce and Tjuvecekadan: Aromatic Coffee & Aboriginal Slate Houses

Located on the Hengchun Peninsula in Pingtung, Kenting is a popular National Park famous for its sunshine and beaches. It hosts the annual Spring Scream music festival in April, which attracts alternative music artists and thousands of visitors.

Travelling south towards Kenting, visitors can explore the beauty of Paiwan villages. County Road 185, a rural road lined with trees, runs along the west side of the Central Mountain Range and connects several mountainous indigenous townships. Among the Paiwan villages, Ulaluce is right situated by County Road 185, while Tjuvecekadan is a remote village deep in the mountains that can be accessed via a small branch road.



Kenting's sailboat
rock and beach



MAP



Aboriginal females pick coffee beans

Ulaluce

Ulaluce (Wulaluzi) is a new village, built for the inhabitants of Taiwu Village after Typhoon Morakot destroyed it. At 700m above sea level, it is the highest Paiwan village in Pingtung. With an average annual rainfall of 4,300 mm, yet also plenty of sunshine, it is an ideal place for growing coffee.

A Long History of Growing Coffee

During the Japanese Era, Japanese agricultural officers grew Arabica coffee and quinine in the Dawu mountain area. After World War II, when the Japanese left Taiwan, the villagers did not know how to grow and roast coffee. In recent years as coffee culture has started to be promoted in this village, more villagers have turned to growing coffee.

Coffee Integrated With Aboriginal Elements

Ulaluce is the largest organic coffee production region in Taiwan. Every single coffee bean is picked by hand to ensure each coffee cherry has reached peak ripeness and become



A tall stele in Ulaluce



County Road 185 lined with trees

cardinal dark red. Now Ulaluce villagers are striving to integrate their coffee industry with local art and culture.

Scenic Spots Nearby

The North Dawu Mountain, at 3092 meters, is part of the sacred range of the Rukai and the Paiwan peoples. The mountain has sharp variations in topography and climate, abundant wildlife, and a diverse forest ecology. Wanjin Basilica is a monumental building in Wanjin Village. It is Taiwan's oldest church, founded in 1861 by Spanish missionaries.

Traffic Information

By Car : Pingtung City → Provincial Highway 24 (toward Sandimen) → Transfer to County Road 185 (southbound) at Neipu Vocational School → Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park → Transfer to Pingtung Country Road 102-1 after passing Taiwu Elementary School , driving 1.2 more kilometers.

Contact Organization

Jiaping Community Development Association, 151, Jiaping Village, Taiwu Township, Pingtung County. TEL: +886-8-7832435



Tjuvecekadan

Tjuvecekadan, or “Laoqijia” in Mandarin Chinese, is the largest and oldest village of slate-stone houses. It still keeps its original appearance, and about 50 slate houses are well preserved. The village is now rated as one of Taiwan’s potential World Cultural Heritage sites. In the Paiwan language, Tjuvecekadan means “the center”, so called because it is located between the Qijia River and the Lili River.

Unique Construction Techniques of Slate Houses

In this village, the houses, corridors, stairways and barns of the chieftain, or those of warriors, are built with slate. Every piece of the slate is cut and moved from the valleys. Four hundred years ago, the Paiwan learned that deep-colored slate is suitable for building houses, while light-colored slate is good for building small walls or stairways. These traditional slate houses feature good ventilation but do not allow any rain to get in.

Cinavu, Typical Paiwan Food

Cinavu, the typical Paiwan food, is a millet ball stuffed with various kinds of meat. It’s then wrapped in wild ginger or ginger leaves and steamed. This traditional food is served on special occasions such as weddings or funerals.



Experiencing the Paiwan culture through DIY workshop



A Solemn Ritual Called Maljeveq

Kuljaljau, a Paiwan village north of Tjuvecekadan, is best known for the once every five year ceremony called “maljeveq”. It’s a traditional and solemn ritual, the climax of which is the pricking of good luck balls. In this, all the youngsters in the tribe prick balls with long bamboo poles, and the one who pricks the last ball is predicted to be the bravest warrior.

“Matjani a qungedjuyi, djemeli a gung”

Traditionally Paiwan elders always paid attention to their pipes carefully. If an elder didn’t bring his pipe with him, he would put it in a safe place. Thus, it’s impossible for the pipe to fall to the ground. It is impossible to see a cow with a smile on its face also. The Paiwan slang, “Matjani a qungedjuyi, djemeli a gung” means a miracle happens as two impossible things become true simultaneously.

Traffic Information

By Car : Pingtung City → Provincial Highway 24 (toward Sandimen)
→ Transfer to County Road 185 (southbound) → Pingtung
Country Road 115 → Country Road 132 after passing the Lili
River, driving for about an hour.

Contact Organization/Person

Laoqijia Slate-House Village Culture Association. 119, Ziqiang 1st Road,
Qijia Village, Chunri Township, Pingtung County. TEL: +886-932-977762
(Mr. Kuo Dong-shung)

The trail of Dongyuan Wetland

Maliba and Kapanan, the Garden of the Hengchun Peninsula

The Hengchun Peninsula is the narrow spur of the Central Mountain Range that forms the southern tip of Taiwan. With long and clean beaches, the peninsula is a popular escape from the frenetic southern cities.

There are many amazing places worthy of exploration in Mudan Township. This area is known as the backyard of the Hengchun Peninsula. Walking by Lake Kudji of Maliba (Dongyuan), visitors may enjoy the marvelous view of the lake and wetland surrounded by wild ginger flowers. In Kapanan (Shimen), visitors may see an ancient battlefield, accompanied by the long and delicate sounds of Paiwan nose flutes.



Eluanbi Lighthouse



MAP



Maliba

Maliba's villagers migrated from the high mountains during the Japanese era. With a remote location the village has a well-preserved ecology and it is rated as one of the top private attractions by tourists.

The Legend of the Lake

Maliba is famous for Lake Kudji, which sounds like Kuqi, meaning "weeping" in Mandarin Chinese. A legend has been created around this name. Once upon a time, there was a Paiwan girl who kept waiting for her beloved to return from his hunting trip. But he never came back. She wept and her tears accumulated into this lake. In actuality, Kudji in the Paiwan language means "water enclosure". Surrounded by forest, the lake has pleasing natural landscapes: tall mahogany trees, Taiwan quillwort that is on the brink of extinction, and in autumn the wild ginger flowers blossom.



The entrance of
Dongyuan Wetland

A Meadow Over the Water

Near to Lake Kudji is the "Dongyuan Wetland". Here some plants have withered and sunk in the water, while new plants have grown above them. This gives the appearance of "a meadow over the water". People can walk on the meadow barefoot as if they were walking on the water. The wetland is called "pudung" by the Paiwan which means "borderland". According to their traditions, it is a no-go area for the tribe. To access the wetland, visitors had best find a local tourist guide for safety.



The valley of the Mudan River



Lake Kudji



Tall mahogany trees

Traffic Information

By Car : Provincial Highway 1 (southbound) → Turn left and transfer to County Road 199 at Checheng → Sichongxi → Shimen → Zhongqie → Mudan → Maliba

Contact Organization/Person

Dongyuan Community Development Association. TEL: +886-905-232199 (Mr. Sun Ming-Heng)



Overlooking the Mudan Reservoir and Mudan Village from Shimen Battlefield

Kapanan

After the Mudan Incident occurred in 1871, the Paiwan villages along the Mudan River basin were almost destroyed by Japanese troops. The Paiwan survivors were forced to migrate to lowland areas.

The Old Battlefield in Kapanan

In 1874, the Japanese launched a punitive expedition in retaliation for the murder of 54 Ryukyuan sailors. The sailors were killed by Paiwan aborigines near the southwestern tip of Taiwan in 1871, in what has come to be known as the Mudan Incident. The site of one of the key battles during the retributive expedition is now known as the Shimen Battlefield. Across

from the battlefield is the Mudan reservoir and the green valley of Kapanan. It's hard to imagine the horrors of the battle against such a tranquil backdrop, but this site witnessed a great deal of cruelty.



The gateway to the battlefield



White digitalis can be found here



Organic products in the education park

A Garden Full of Fragrance

Starting from Lake Kudji and heading towards the Mudan Reservoir along County Road 199, travellers can visit the Jiadegu Aboriginal Nature Education Park. This is a place where Paiwan villagers in Mudan used to exchange their ideas and talk. With particularly favorable natural conditions, the education park has become a certified organic farm. It develops various organic products, including handmade soap, vanilla extract, vanilla tea, and jam. Handicraft courses and delicious cuisines are also available.

Traffic Information

By Car : Provincial Highway 1 (southbound) → Turn left and transfer to County Road 199 at Checheng → Pass Mudan Bridge → Kapanan

Contact Organization/Person

Mudan Aboriginal Tourism and Cultural Industry Development Association. TEL: +886-8-883-1399、+886-988-997-401 (Mr. Zheng Zi-Wen)

'Atolan and Torik, A Spectacular Journey Along the Coast

The southeast coastal area ranges from Hualien to Taitung, between the Coastal Mountain Range and the Pacific Ocean. This 180-km-long coastline, with scenic landscapes and typical aboriginal villages, is often regarded as the most stunning seashore on Taiwan itself. The East Coast Highway (Provincial Highway 11), built along the coast, gives tourists magnificent views of the mountains and sea. The area is also inhabited by the Amis, the largest tribe among Taiwan's indigenous peoples. Visiting artists in the old Dulan Sugar Factory and watching the weaving of shell ginger leaves in Torik, travellers may enjoy a traditional way of life.



Torik Village



MAP



Artwork in the Dulan Sugar Factory

'Atolan

Dulan is the biggest tribal village on the southeast coast of Taiwan. The Amis people call it "Atolan", meaning 'stone walls'. In earlier days these were built for defense against invasions by the Puyuma tribe from the south.

Harvest Festival: The Gathering Back in the Homeland

The "Harvest Festival", is the most important traditional festival for the Amis. It is held across every tribal village between June and August. In the early days, job opportunities were scarce in the villages, and so most of the young villagers traveled far away from home to earn a living. The festival was held to create an opportunity for the youth to come home and gather crops with family and friends, and to share the joyous spirit of a good millet harvest.

Water Running Up: a Spectacle of Nature

A visit to the "Water Running Up" is a must for visitors. On a hillside facing the ocean, the water in a stream appears to be defying gravity by running uphill. Curious? Visit it for yourself and find out how this "wonder" of nature has come about. Boasting diverse coral species and marine life, Jiamuzih Bay, north of the Dulan Bay, is a paradise for scuba divers.



A painted wall of a house

A Visit to Dulan Sugar Factory

"Dulan Sugar Factory" (known as the "Sintung Sugar Factory" in the Japanese era) was bombed during World War II by the Allies, yet its wooden warehouses, dormitories, and offices remained intact. Today they are well-preserved, and stand as witnesses to the wax and wane of the nation's sugar industry. It is currently a well-known cultural center on the east coast. Artists come here to pursue their creative visions and it is where many artists, such as driftwood sculptors and iron artists were nurtured before they became celebrated virtuosi.



Artwork in the Dulan Sugar Factory

Traffic Information

By Car : From Taitung City, drive along Provincial Highway 11 (northbound) and stop at 146K.

By Bus : Take the Dingdong Bus toward Hualien at Taitung City and get off at Dulan Stop.

Contact Person:

Dulan Community Development Association. 372 Dulan, Dulan Village, Donghe Township, Taitung County. TEL: +886-89-531476



Torik

Torik (Duli) is a well-populated Amis village with a long history. Its reception center is a beautiful traditional thatched house surrounded by coconut trees.

Shell Ginger: A Necessity for Everyday Life

Although shell ginger is a common plant in the low-altitude areas of Taiwan, it is the Torik villagers who really put it to good use. They use the leaves to wrap up foods and the fibers of the stems are turned into exquisite artifacts by their dexterous hands. These include such items as sleeping mats, buckets, and baskets. In recent years, these well-designed and high quality items have become highly sought after pieces of aboriginal craftwork.

Enjoy the Beach and Take a Ride on the Rubber Raft

Torik faces the ocean and is near to a beautiful beach. Many visitors enjoy relaxing by the ocean and exploring the biodiversity of the intertidal zone. Visitors can also take a ride on the rubber raft provided in the village and experience traditional fishing and hunting methods together with the village people.

The Card Church

A visit to the "Card Church", located north of the village, can feel like a visit to a place in a children's storybook. In historical



Weaving with shell ginger leaves



A bag woven from shell ginger leaves

times, local churches were built with bamboo, or were wooden structures with thatched roofs. This however made them susceptible to typhoons. So the villagers rebuilt their church in the style of a small European rural chapel, as they are often portrayed on Christmas cards. They built an all-white church which is now known as the "Card Church". Amidst the Southeast Asian ambiance of the village, this church is particularly eye-catching.



Delicious seafood

Traffic Information

By Car : From Taitung City, drive along Provincial Highway 11 (northbound) and stop at 125K.

By Bus : Take the Dingdong Bus toward Hualien at Taitung City and get off at Duli Stop.

Contact Organization/Person

Duli Community Development Association. 63-1 Duli Road, Chenggong Township, Taitung County. TEL +886-937-579624 (Ms. Wu Xiao-Fan)

Beautiful canoes on Orchid Island

Laipunuk and Iraralay: Mountain and Sea Adventures

Taitung county is home to stunning natural wonders and indigenous cultures. Most of the county is occupied by the mountains of the Central Mountain Range and the Coastal Mountain Range. Between these mountains is the long, narrow East Rift Valley. Taitung also faces the Pacific Ocean and has two offshore islands; Green Island and Orchid Island.

Deep within a thick forest Laipunuk is a window onto nature and history. Follow Laipunuk's hunters to explore the traditional lifestyle of the Bunun.

The Yami (Tao) people are the aboriginal residents of Orchid Island. On visiting the island, Yami fishermen will show you their oceanic way of life and introduce you to Yami culture.



Laipunuk



Iraralay



Hikers scale the steep slope by climbing tree roots in Laipunuk

Laipunuk

The Bunun are an indigenous people who are good at living in balance with the forest. Laipunuk (Neibenlu) is the perfect place to learn how to live in harmony with nature in the mountains.

Life with Natural Momentum

On the way up the Beinan River, you'll find the Luan Shan Forest Museum. It is an eco-friendly museum with precious giant Banyan trees. Visitors may make a popular dessert called Mochi by pounding sticky rice. After eating, visitors may take a walk along the ancient trails or visit aboriginal houses and hunting grounds. Here hikers can occasionally encounter Formosan sambar deer and wild boars.

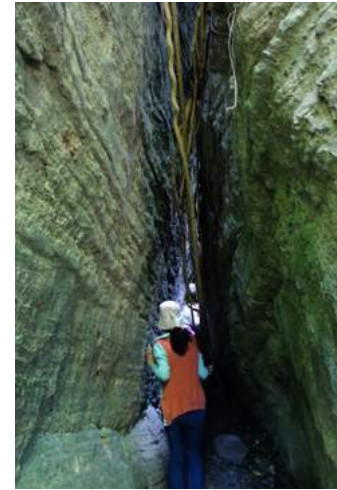
Bunun Cultural Park

The Bunun Cultural Park, near the museum, is a recreation

site that shows demonstrations of traditional tribal life and exhibitions of aboriginal art. The art displayed includes both traditional and contemporary pieces. The center also provides camping services and weaving workshops.

The Malahodaigian Ritual

In April, the Malahodaigian ("shooting of the ears") ritual is held in the sacrifice square of the Luming Butterfly Valley. It is the most important ceremony for the Bunun. During this ritual the Bunun men shoot the ear of a deer with arrows. A tribesman can avoid bad luck if he hits this target. All the villagers will participate in the ritual and demonstrate their hunting prowess through competition.



Laipunuk Incident

Between the 1920s and 1930s, during their occupation of Taiwan, the Japanese built cordons and police stations to govern indigenous people in the mountains. In 1941, a Bunun man named Haisul led an attack on the cordons and police stations in the Laipunuk region, killing some Japanese. This is now referred to as the Laipunuk Incident. After the incident the Bunun were forced to move from their territory and were relocated to lowland areas in the south of the East Rift Valley.

Traffic Information

By Car : Taitung City → Provincial Highway 9 (northbound) → Head to Longlian at Chulu Township and then toward Yenping

By Train : Take a train and get off at Luye Station , and then take a taxi or rent a bike to Laipunuk (for about 15 minutes of riding).

Contact Organization

Bunun Cultural Park. 191, Shengping Road, Taoyuan Village, Yenping Township, Taitung County. TEL: +886-89-561211



The Yami are good at sailing

Iraralay

Orchid Island, “Lanyu” in Mandarin Chinese, sits off the coast of Taitung. Iraralay (Langdao) is the largest and richest village on this island. It is famous for its flying fish festival and is known as a “diver’s paradise” due to abundant oceanic resources.

“Flying Fish” Culture for the Whole Year

The Yami depend on the sea for their livelihood and regard flying fish as a gift from the gods. For generations, the Yami have developed restrictions regarding the catching and eating of the sacred fish. The Yami are prohibited from catching flying fish until February and March. April and May are considered the best time to taste the fish. After the Mapasagit ritual held in June, the Yami stop catching the flying fish, and are only eating dried stock by September. The rules governing fishing here are generally believed to be very ecologically friendly.

Taro, the Most Important Crop

The Yami men catch fish in the sea while the women grow taro in terraced fields. The taro is baked into cakes, and these cakes are a staple food for the tribe.

Underground Dwellings

The underground dwellings of the Yami have been listed as a potential world cultural heritage site. These underground houses have a sophisticated drainage system that makes them completely waterproof. In Iraralay, many of these houses are still well preserved.



Dried flying fish

Canoe

The canoe is not only used as a fishing boat by the Orchid islanders but it also represents the spirits of the men. This is because every time a boy is born, his family grows a tree for him. When the boy grows up, he'll build his own canoe from this tree. Canoe building is an extremely sacred ritual, during which there are taboos. Photography and touching the canoe is prohibited unless the canoe owner approves.

Traffic Information

By Boat : Take the Green Island Star Boat (綠島之客輪星 TEL: +886-89-280226) from Fugang to Langyu, or the Golden Star Boat (金星號客輪 , +886-89-281477) from Houbihu to Lanyu.

By Airplane : Take the airplane from Taitung to Lanyu. Please refer to <http://travel.lanyu.info>

Contact Organization

Tao Foundation. 12-1, Yeyou Village, Lanyu Township, Taitung County.
TEL: +886-89-731000



Mukumugi Canyon

Knkreyan, the Guardian of An Exceptional Ecological Corridor

The East Rift Valley is a long and narrow valley between the Central Mountain Range and the Coastal Mountain Range. The valley stretches for about 180 kilometers, connecting Hualien and Taitung.

The Truku Village, Knkreyan (Tongmen), is located at the north end of the East Rift Valley, and is the door to Mukumugi, a narrow gorge known for its isolation. The Chingshui River flows through the corridor, forming an amazing crescent-shaped canyon.



Lake Liyu



MAP



Cingsio Temple



Knives of Tongmen



Mukumugi fall

Knkreyan

In the past, the large numbers of tourists that visited Mukumugi created a heavy burden on the environment. After reflecting on the issue, the villagers decided to make a change. They designated the valley an “eco-corridor”, which now requires a permit to enter. Cars are no longer allowed in. Instead, people need to travel by foot to where the Chingshui River flows. The mosses and the creek shrimps have returned, and the eco-system is coming back to life.

The Magnificent View of Mukumugi Gorge

The gorge is deep and meandering and the water is clear and tinted with the color of jade. “Mukumugi” is an enchanting place rich in biodiversity. It is said the name “Mukumugi” is the name of the Truku family who first came to cultivate the land.

The Knife of the Truku

Knives are an indispensable tool in the daily lives of the Truku people. They are relied upon to cut through the thick forest and to provide protection. Knives are also a symbol of the continuation of life and the people’s bonds with the world.

The “Tong-Lan Knife Shop” is the village’s most renowned place to buy knives. It is run by the knife maker Youdau, the 4th generation in his family to run the shop.

The Takasago Volunteers

During World War II, the villagers were recruited by the Japanese authorities to join the “Takasago Volunteers”, and fight in battles in Southeast Asia. In memory of the deceased, a shrine was set up at a check dam for the 4 power plants built by the Japanese along the Mugua River. Today, the “Monument of the Loyal Souls” still exists for people to pay their tributes to the fallen.

Traffic Information

By Car : Starting from Hualien City, drive along Provincial Highway 9C southbound, turn right at the Mugua River, and follow the Road indicators to find the destination .

By Bus : Take the Hualien Bus toward Tongmen

Contact Person

Mr. Kaji Cihung, TEL: +886-975-140500

Aerial view of Ca'wi

Ca'wi and Sibilian, the Promised Lands on the East Coast Highway

Just off the long East Coast Highway, Ca'wi and Sibilian are two villages where people and nature exist in harmony. Holding themselves aloof from bustling cities, the villagers find their joy in hauling in fish and shrimp, rafting in the Siouguluan River, and following the traces of animals.



Changhong Bridge



MAP



Ca'wi

The Amis village of Ca'wi (Jingpu) is located on the south bank of the mouth of the Siouguluan River. Because there is a gigantic rock nearby named Pacidal, meaning “the sun”, in the Amis language, the village is also called “the village of the sun”.

The Tropic of Cancer

Ca'wi is located right on the Tropic of Cancer, the landmark of which is at the 69km marker on Provincial Highway 11. On the white surface of the landmark runs a narrow slit. Every year at noon during the summer solstice, sunlight moves across the tower to a point where it enters precisely into the slit. At this point the shadow of the tower is nowhere to be seen.

The Home to the Mitten Crabs

Located where the river and ocean meet, Ca'wi has a diverse range of species. The Sanfu River, beside the village, is home to Taiwan mitten crabs. As summer turns into fall, you can see many baby crabs tracing their way back to their homes. You can sign up for eco-activities at the village's river protection association and look for the crabs yourself by the seashore.



Tourist Service Center



Sibulan island



Mouth of the Siouguluan River

Rafting at the mouth of the Siouguluan River has been popular in recent years, so you may also want to check that out!

The Unique Experience of Traditional Fishing and Hunting

In Ca'wi you can try bamboo rafting in the Siouguluan River while enjoying the gorgeous view of the Changhong Bridge and the high mountains. Or you can experience the fishing and hunting culture of the Amis people and learn to use their traditional fishing tools. For example, you can learn how to cast a net by performing a series of swinging body movements.

Traffic Information

By Car : Starting from Hualien City, drive along Provincial Highway 11 (southbound) and transfer to Old Provincial Highway 11 after passing the Changhong Bridge to arrive at the destination.

By Bus : Take the Dingdong Bus or the Hualien Bus toward Chenggong, Jingpu or Taitung, at Hualien Station and get off at Jingpu Stop.

Contact Organization

Ca'wi Community Development Association. 140 Jingpu Village, Fengbin Township, Hualien County. TEL: +886-3-878-1697



Sibilian

It is generally believed that the name of the village "Sibilian" comes from the Dutch, meaning "a beautiful village". However, others suggest that the name originates from "Ciwidian", meaning a place of numerous leeches in the Amis language.

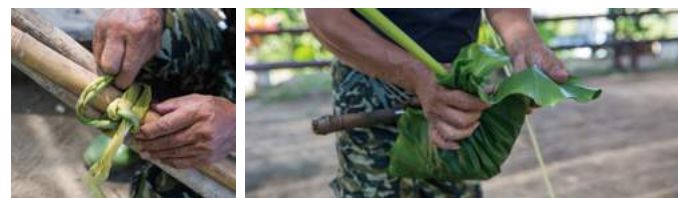
Sibilian (Shuilien) boasts breathtaking oceanic and forest views, and a vibrant hunting culture. The Cidal Hunter School is built on a slope and gives tourists the opportunity to learn hunting skills. There is also an observation platform with panoramic vistas overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



The observation platform hidden in trees at the hunter school

Exploration of Hunter Culture

If you want to experience the ultimate challenges of survival in the wild, just follow in the footsteps of the Amis hunters. Cast a fishing net to haul in river creatures, set up traps to capture prey in the forest and chop wood to make a fire in the darkness of the night. Learning how to use shell ginger stems as ropes and giant elephant's ear leaves as spoons are also precious experiences.



Experience the ultimate challenges of survival in the wild

Special Cuisine: Sand Bubbler Crabs

The mouth of a river where freshwater and saltwater meet is home to a diverse number of sea creatures. The sand bubbler crab is endemic to the east coast of Taiwan and is also a local dish. Hunters walk into the sea and cast baits onto the sand. After half an hour's waiting they can enjoy a speciality that's not available to the general public.



A gift from the sea: Sand bubbler crabs

Weaving with Coconut Leaves

The Amis have mastered the art of using plants to craft items. A hunter may be skilled in weaving with grass and often can turn a straight coconut leaf into various instruments and accessories.



A warrior's head ring woven with grass

Traffic Information

By Car : Starting from Hualien City, drive along Provincial Highway 11 (southbound) and stop at 30K.

By Bus : Take the Dingdong Bus or the Hualien Bus toward Taitung and get off at Shuilien Stop.

Contact Organization/ Person

Hualien County Ecology and Culture Recreation Development Association. TEL: +886-3-8513990, +886-925-758258 (Ms. Banai)



Jinyue Waterfall

Tyohemg, A Vintage Atayal Village

Running alongside steep beach cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Su-hua Highway (Provincial Highway 9) is a vital link between Yilan and Hualien. It was built over a century ago as a means for the Qing and Japanese regimes to extend its power to East Taiwan, where many indigenous Taiwanese groups lived. It was then rebuilt and widened by the Japanese and the current government. Now, known as the most challenging and scenic road on Taiwan's east coast, it has become a popular route for foreign tourists.

Tyohemg (Jinyue) is situated by the Nanao River around a kilometer off the Su-hua Highway. It is near Nanao Town, which is an hour away from the beginning of the highway at Su-ao. The village is an Atayal community of 500 inhabitants. Besides its beautiful scenery and landscape, it is also famous for the promotion and preservation of Atayal culture and traditions.



The Su-hua Highway



MAP



A local tree house

Tyohemg

Tyohemg, formerly named Lupi ("Deer Skin" in Mandarin Chinese), is bordered by the Central Mountain Range to the north, west and south, and the Nanao River to the east. During the Japanese period, the Atayal people travelled from the mountainous Ryohen village to Tyohemg on the Piyahao Ancient Trail. This was originally built in the Qing Dynasty and is a shortcut connecting the northern and eastern parts of Taiwan.

The Legend of Sayon

On the ancient trail there is a suspension bridge built in 1938 in memory of a legend. It is about a teenage girl named Sayon (莎韻) who lived in the aboriginal village of Ryohen. Her Japanese teacher was called up for military service during World War II when Taiwan was under Japanese rule. On the exact date of her teacher's departure, Sayon volunteered to carry his luggage and accompanied him as he left the village. Unfortunately Sayon fell and drowned when crossing a river.



Sayon's Bell (rebuilt)

A bell monument, Sayon's Bell, was later erected by the Japanese Taiwan Governor's Office, commemorating the sad event, and a song of the same title was written in dedication to this "patriotic" girl.

Salted Pork with Millet

In the early years, Atayal hunters shared what they hunted and salted any surplus to preserve it. They cooked the salted meat for guests. Visitors may experience making the Atayal traditional salted pork and sticky rice themselves.



Salted pork with millet



Atayal traditional weaving

Handmade Souvenirs and Activities

Activities available include the dyeing and weaving of natural fibers and the shooting of arrows. Some activities are difficult, but all are worth experiencing. Aboriginal weaving, as demonstrated by Atayal elders, is a complex skill that takes many years to perfect. If visitors find that too tricky, they may hand-make simple souvenirs through plant dyeing.



Woven baskets and shoes



Aboriginal weaving by an elder



A traditional aboriginal house



An Atayal watchtower



A boy wearing Atayal clothing

Tribal Tree Houses

The traditional wooden tree houses and watch towers are an appealing sight and can be found by Jinyue Elementary School. In addition; visiting tribal barns, tracing the Lupi River, and swimming in the blue pool under the Jinyue Waterfall are all activities which people rarely experience in the bustle of the city.

Traffic Information

By Car : Head southbound along Provincial Highway 9 (Su-hua Highway) → Turn right after passing the Nanao River → Tyohemg

By Bus : Take a train to Nanao Station, transfer to the Nanao Tourist Bus and get off at Jinyang Village (金洋社區).

Contact Person

Jinyue Village Development Association, No.12 Jinyue Rd., Nanao Township, Yilan. TEL: +886-3-9984313

Annual Timetable for Traditional Rituals and Festivals of Taiwan’s Indigenous Peoples

January	February	March	April	May	June
<div>Hla'alua - Miatungusu (Ritual of the Shell Gods)</div> <div>Puyuma - Gilabus (Escaping Misfortune Rtual)</div>	<div>Puyuma - Ilisin (Harvest Festival)</div> <div>Tsou - Mayasvi (Ceremony of War)</div> <div>Yami - Mi vanowa (Performing Flying Fish Festival)</div>		<div>Saisiyat - Gagawas (Heavenly Worship Ritual)</div> <div>Saisiyat - Pit'aza (Seed Sowing Ritual)</div> <div>Thao - Mulalu pisaza (Sowing Festival)</div>	<div>Bunun - Malahodaigian (Shooting of the Ears Ritual)</div> <div>Saisiyat - Pit'aza (Seed Sowing Ritual)</div> <div>Amis - Milaedis (Ocean Worship Ritual)</div> <div>Yami – Flying Fish Festival</div>	<div>Yami - Millet Harvest Festival</div>
July	August	September	October	December	November
<div>Puyuma - Mulaliyaban (Ceremony of the Sea)</div> <div>Rukai - Millet Harvest Festival</div> <div>Kavalan - Laligi (Sacrifice to the Sea)</div>	<div>Thao - Mulalu ma (Eel Worship Ceremony)</div> <div>Amis - Ilisin (Harvest Festival)</div> <div>Tsou - Homeyaya (Millet Harvest Festival)</div> <div>Atayal - Ma hou (Ancestral Worship Ritual)</div> <div>Paiwan - Masalut (Harvest Festival)</div> <div>Truku - Ancestral Worship Ritual</div>	<div>Thao - Tunkarete lus'an (Year Change Ritual)</div>	<div>Paiwan - Maljeveq (Five-Year Ceremony)</div> <div>Truku - Ancestral Worship Ritual</div>	<div>Saisiyat - Pasbaki (Ancestor Worship Ritual)</div> <div>Saisiyat - Pasida-ai (Ceremony of the Dwarves)</div> <div>Rukai - Tapakarhavae (Black Rice Festival)</div> <div>Atayal - Ma hou (Ancestral Worship Ritual)</div>	<div>Puyuma - Mangayau (Ceremony of Hunting)</div> <div>Puyuma - Basibas (Ceremony of the Monkeys)</div>

Notice: This is a rough timetable provided for reference. Please get in touch with the contact organization/person of the indigenous tribe for the exact time before your visit.

Taboos of Indigenous Peoples

Amis

- ◆ Women cannot join the greeting-spirit dance at night during the harvest festival.
- ◆ Use of the terms, “millet” and “taking a bath”, is prohibited during the millet harvest festival.

Paiwan

- ◆ Smoking is prohibited during the five-year ceremony.
- ◆ No sneezing is allowed at a site where an aboriginal ritual is being held. If someone sneezes the ritual must stop and will have to take place another day.
- ◆ No women are allowed to pass in front of the altar on the third day of the harvest festival.

Yami

- ◆ During Mi Vanowa (the flying fish catching festival), never board any fishing boat without permission. Women are not allowed to touch the boats.
- ◆ *Barringtonia racemosa* (powder-puff) trees are regarded as “devil trees” by the Yami. Their leaves should not be brought into a house or a canoe.

Kavalan

- ◆ There are many taboos regarding banana trees that have been worshiped. Crossing banana tree leaves on the ground is strictly prohibited.

Saisiyat

- ◆ Pasida-ai is a ritual worshiping the spirits of dwarves. It is not a festival. Please retain a solemn attitude.
- ◆ Pregnant women and their husbands cannot attend Pasida-ai.
- ◆ During Pasida-ai, every person and every object should be tied with silver grass. This grass has been worshiped and it should be abandoned after the ritual.
- ◆ Photographing or approaching the house where the spirits of dwarves dwell is strictly forbidden.

Bunun

- ◆ Please speak in low volumes at the site where the millet harvest festival is being held. Also, don't drink water, sneeze, or say out loud that “you want to go to the restroom”.

Puyuma

- ◆ The traditional Kuba is a meeting place where men gather and train. Women are prohibited from entering the Kuba.

Tsou

- ◆ During the ritual “sacrifice to the sea”, no woman is allowed to access the ritual site; for this would entail bad luck on her and the village.

Reminders for Tourists

1. Please respect the traditions and culture of the indigenous people before entering their villages.
2. It is recommended visitors learn a greeting in the indigenous language, which may be used as an expression of goodwill.
3. Some objects, facilities and aboriginal houses may be seen as precious cultural heritage sites. Please ask for permission if you want to touch, use or access them.
4. Wherever possible avoid close-up photography when taking photos. There may be taboos regarding photography in some tribes.
5. Do not give negative opinions on aboriginal legends or historical events.
6. When a festival or a ritual is held by an indigenous tribe, please follow its rules and guidelines.



Uhtanie ho mimimiyos Explore Taiwan's Indigenous Tribes

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