



Turtle Island

The Guardian of Lanyang Plain

Turtle Island, located 10km east of Toucheng coast, gets its name from its outer shape, which looks like a huge turtle floating on the surface of the ocean. At its widest points, the island is 3.3km long from east to west, and 1.7km from north to south, for a total surface area of 2.85km². With very limited historical records for the island, people only know that it was once called Danger Cliff Island, a title it earned due to how dangerous it is to climb. Turtle Island once held a population of up to 700 people, but later they all immigrated to the Turtle Mountain neighborhood in the nearby coastal town of Toucheng, mainly due to the hardship and poverty of life on the island. Later, in 1977, the island was declared a controlled military zone and closed for 23 years. It wasn't until 2000 that the island was opened up again for tourism and sightseeing.



Eight Scenic Highlights of Turtle Island

A Variety of Views of the Heavenly Sea Turtle

Since the early days of the Ching Dynasty, Turtle Island has been famous for its eight notable sights, namely: *Turtle Paying Respects to the Sun*, *Sulphur Smoke on Turtle Island*, *Turtle Rock and Precipice*, *Spectacle of Turtle Eggs*, *Heavenly Turtle Wagging Tail*, *Heavenly Turtle Wearing a Hat*, *Spectacle of Glass Hole With Stalactite*, and *Seabed Spa Surging Up High*. Among these, *Turtle Paying Respects to the Sun*, which is the sunrise over Turtle Island, is regarded as the most significant and beautiful.



Turtle Tail



Pacific Ocean



Traveller's Guide to Exploring Turtle Island

东北角
暨宜兰海岸国家风景区管理处

Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area Administration

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Free Service Phone: 0800-091-115

Consumer Protection Line: 1950 (available in Mandarin, English, and Japanese)

Taiwan Tour Bus: <http://www.taiwantourbus.com.tw>



Ecological Tour on Turtle Island

An Isolated Island Featuring Cobbles and Taiwan Ebony

Turtle Island, thanks to its isolated location off the northeast coast and the fact that it was closed for so long, has managed to preserve a rich and distinct natural environment. It is a paradise for the “Large Tree Nymph”—a white spotted butterfly, the most northern variety of Taiwan Ebony, the indigenous Chinese fan palm, and the wild lily which blooms all over the mountain valley. The following suggested route will provide visitors with a rich and varied ecological tour!

Stop 1: North Dock and South Dock (5 minutes)
The docks are the passageway to enter and exit the island. Originally, there was only one dock, the South Dock; however, in June, 2003, the North Dock was designed and built, with a crossover bridge connecting it to the land. The unique design allows waves and tides to recede and flow freely, which prevents the bridge foundation from being destroyed by the huge crashing waves. Not only is it practical, but it is pleasing to the eye as well.

Stop 2: Turtle Island Visitor Center (20 minutes)
Tourist information and up-to-the-minute marine weather forecasts can be found here. There are clean public washrooms for visitors too. The film, *Local Flavor of Turtle Island*, is also shown throughout the day in the main room of the visitor center. This is also a great place to check out the photo gallery of the Eight Scenes of Turtle Island.



Stop 3: Putuo Rock Temple (10 minutes)
The temple once was called Gonglan Temple, which referred to the guardian of Lanyang Plain. Interestingly, an incense bag was placed in the shrine instead of gods. Later, the nearby residents, most of them fishermen, started to worship and enshrine Matsu, Goddess of the sea. After the military personnel marched in and stationed themselves there, they converted the temple into a place to worship Guanyin, a Buddhist god, and later changed the name of the temple to Putuo Rock Temple.

Stop 4: Taiwan Ebony Trail (20 minutes)
There is a Taiwan Ebony Tree along the trail. In the olden days when babies were born, their parents would bring them to this very tree and pray for “water rice”, which meant they asked the Ebony God to be the godfather of the kids, and to protect them so they could grow up healthy and happy. Next to the tree visitors will find a monument which was set up in 1939 in memory of the excavation of Turtle Fishing Harbor, and also a sight-seeing balcony. Standing high up here, gazing at the broad and vast scene before them, visitors will enjoy a complete and commanding view of Turtle Island.



Stop 5: Lake Circuit Trail (30 minutes)
The trail, with a total length of 650m, follows the shore of the tranquil and beautiful Turtle Tail Lake. Along the trail, there are countless natural ecological sights for visitors to linger at, as well as one sculpture of Guanyin, so solemn and gentle, just like a loving mother waiting for her children to return home from far away adventures. We recommend you stop here for a while and take a picture with the sculpture, while also imagining the homesickness of the lonely young soldiers who were encamped here.

Stop 6: Military Tunnel (30 minutes)
The 800m long Military Tunnel, with the main tunnel 3.5m high and 3m wide, is equipped with plenty of military equipment, such as a 90m high anti-aircraft cannon and machine-gun positions. It compares favorably with Dishan Tunnel in Kinmen and Baba Tunnel in Matsu. Visitors can personally experience the battlefield tunnel without having to travel to the far off frontlines of Kinmen and Matsu.



Academic and Ecological Study—401 Highland Trail System
Besides the tourist information facilities mentioned above, there are two other extraordinary “Ecological Trails” heading to 401 Highland. One is the North Coast Trail, 2.8km long; the other is the 401 Trail, 1.4km long. There is a rich abundance of natural resources along the trail, making it a splendid place for ecological education. Upon reaching the summit, one can take in a complete view of Turtle Island.



Taiwan Fox Bat at Turtle Island
In 2006 a small group of fox bats were found living in a valley on Turtle Island. The bats are the largest of Taiwan’s thirty native species of bats, with wingspans of 80-100 centimeters. Roosting in the branches of trees, they feed on fruits, flowers, and tender leaves. Previously the bats could also be found on Green Island, but were over-hunted there, leaving the Turtle Island population as the only surviving members of the species. These bats are now classified as an endangered species. It is important therefore that we protect their habitat on Turtle Island so that the colony can regenerate and continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

How to Reach Turtle Island

Traffic Information and Applying for Island Admission and Hiking Permits

◆ Traffic Information
Wushih Harbor is the gateway for all visitors coming or going to Turtle Island. Wushih Harbor can be reached several ways:
1. Departing From Taipei—2 Routes:
(1 / Scenic) Drive along Seafront Provincial Highway Tai-2 towards Yilan County; pass through Beiguan, before arriving at Wushih Harbor.
(2 / Direct) Drive along No. 5 Beiyi Freeway and turn left at Ercheng onto County Road #191, drive all the way to Dingpu, and take Provincial Highway Tai-2 to Wushih Harbor.
2. Departing From Hualien or Taitung
Drive along Suhua Provincial Highway Tai-9, and then get onto the Seafront Provincial Highway Tai-2, heading towards Toucheng which is just before Wushih Harbor.
3. Public Transportation
(1) Take Yilan Line of Taiwan Railway, get off at Yilan Station, and take a bus to Wushih.
(2) Take the “King Bus” from Taipei Federal Highway Bus Terminal (Located on the corner of Civic Blvd. Sec. 1 & Chongcing N. Rd. Sec. 1) towards Yilan and Hualien, and get off at Wushih Harbor Station.



◆ Applying for an Island Admission Permit
Please Note: If you are a Taiwan Citizen then you will need to apply through the Northeast Coast Official Website: <http://www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw>
Otherwise if you are a non-citizen please follow the procedures below:
For admission to the island you are required to apply for a permit at least 3–20 days before you wish to visit. Please forward the following details:
●Name ●Date Of Birth ●Passport Number ●Visiting Date
●A Local Taiwan address where we can send you your admission permit (i.e. Hotel Address – Don’t forget to notify the hotel they are receiving mail for you)
Please Forward to:
Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area Administration, Tourism Bureau
No. 36 Singlong St. Fulong Village, Gongliao Township, Taipei County 22841 Taiwan (R.O.C.)
For further information on applying an island admission permit, please contact Northeast Coast National Scenic Area Administration on 02-2499-1115 ext. 221.

◆ More Information About the Commuting Boats and Prices

Boat Name	Owner	Contact
Gui Shan Chao Ri	Fishers' Association of Tou-cheng Area	03-978-2511#404, 405 0936-096-155
Gui Shan Chao Ri 2	Fishers' Association of Tou-cheng Area	03-978-2511#404, 405 0936-096-155
Hua-qi 168	Lin Qi-shan	0955-037-996 0937-163-916
Hong-qi	Chen Hong-qi	0910-259-275
Super Star No. 3	Chien Ming-yi	0972-507-888 0938-630-771
the North Star No. 1	Wei Chun-liang	0939-310-369
Orchid Whale	Wu Zheng-liang	03-978-1865 0912-593-213
Kai Whale	You Guo-zhao	0935-760-766 0910-259-271
New Fu-feng 168	Jian Chen Chun-feng	0920-899-966
Ge Ma Lan	Zhuang Ming-chi	0927-726-562 0919-283-107
Da Fa 2	Lu Ze-pu	0937-453-919
New Fu-feng 36	Jian Jun-nan	0920-059-715 0932-263-019
Bo-xun	Chen Zi-yin	0910-145-336 0935-618-258
Notes: 1.Please contact the boat companies for the fare. 2.For more information, please visit the two websites: http://www.e-land.gov.tw and http://www.etcfca.org.tw		

Other Suggested Tour Itineraries for the Northeast Coast

You may ask: Are there sights in the Northeast Coast area other than Turtle Island, Of course there are!
Here are 4 suggested tour itineraries:
1. Turtle Island to Yanliao: Sailing around Turtle Island, and enjoying the sights of whales and dolphins→Having lunch in Gengfang→Enjoying the majestic acoustical spectacle of big waves in Beiguan Tidal Park→Bike tour from Longmen Camping Site to Yanliao Beach Park
2. Turtle Island to Beitou Cape: Sailing around Turtle Island, and enjoying the sights of whales and dolphins→Fulong Visitor Center (Enjoying the entertaining and educational films, wood carving art, and other exhibitions)→Hiking from Longdongwan Cape to Bitou Cape Trail
3. Turtle Island to Longdongwan Park: Sailing around Turtle Island, and enjoying the sights of whales and dolphins→Having lunch in Dasi or Gengfang→Having a cup of coffee in Shicheng Service Center→Fulong Visitor Center (Enjoying the entertaining and educational films, wood carving art, and other exhibitions) →Enjoying water sports in Longdong Four Season Bay or Bitou-Longdong Geology Park
4. Turtle Island to Jiaosi: Sailing around Turtle Island, and enjoying the sights of whales and dolphins →Having fun in Beiguan Farm or Toucheng Farm?Enjoying the Jiaosi Spa