

## About the Story

### Introduction of the Hundred-Year-Old Trail

The 8.5 km long Caoling Historic Trail is located between Yuanwangkeng, Gongliao Town, Taipei County and Dali, Toucheng Town, Yilan County. It Served as the main route between Taipei and Yilan for previous generations and is the remains of the Danshuei-to-Lanyang Pathway that dates back to the Qing Dynasty.

Along the trail are broad-leaved evergreen forests and the most distinguishing Plant of Taiwan's subtropical rain forests-brush barrel trees. Other ancient cultural highlights scattered along the trail include the Horse-Falling-to-Death Bridge, the Rock of Celestial Footsteps, and two inscriptions-Siong Jhen Man Yan Inscription (meaning bravely quell the violent mists) and the Tiger Inscription, which are both listed as level three national historical sites. By climbing up to the Wu-Kou pavilion in autumn visitors can enjoy the exquisite scenery of the white silver grass sea that covers the mountains.

With so many traces of ancient culture and historical sites along the trail, Travelers can enjoy the natural beauty of the area while cherishing the stories of Taiwan's ancient pioneers. For more than two hundred years the trail has existed as proof of our past and a reminder for us to love the land we are born to.



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Cultural and Nostalgic Trip Along the Northeast Coast

# Discover

## the Nature Wonders of Caoling Historical Trail

*Start off from the remotest corners of the earth.*

*Push aside the tall and tightly packed white silver grasses.*

*Step on the ancient stone stairs and trails.*

*Imagine walking alongside those pioneers and ancestors.*

*It will be a whole new experience of communing with nature  
and sharing the pioneering spirit.*

## Tips for Hikers

1. Three public toilets are located respectively at Yuanwangkeng Water Park, the picnic area, and the Maintenance & Management Office.
2. There are no stores along the trail. A vending machine can be found in front of the Maintenance & Management Office, but visitors should buy food and drinks at Fulong or Dali before beginning any hiking trips.
3. During autumn and winter strong winds and heavy rains are common, especially around the Wu-Kou pavilion and the Tiger Inscription. Be sure to bring an umbrella or raincoat, and wear warm clothing.
4. Not all the trains stop at the Dali Train Station. Check the train timetable before traveling.
5. Two small parking lots near the Yuanwangkeng Water Park are available for visitors. Town buses can be parked at the Dali Visitors' Center or Dali Temple.
6. There is no artificial lighting along the trail so visitors should start hiking before 3PM to ensure they can safely return from any hike.
7. Wu-Kou pavilion is also the start for Taoyuan Valley Trails. It takes four hours to complete the trip. There are no stores along the trails either so be sure to bring food and drink, be wary of conditions, and ensure you have enough time to complete the journey before nighttime.



## Yearly Banquet

### Annual Festival of the Silver Grass Season

Every November when the northeast wind starts blowing, the green mountains and valleys are gradually covered with gently swaying white silver grass, transforming the trail into a romantic pathway with both sides full of dazzling silver grass blowing in the breeze. Under the innovative planning of the Northeast and Yilan Coast Administration, the annual Silver Grass Season Festival can be a nostalgic journey, a magical trip beyond time and space, or even a fictional fantasy in the future. The unique festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors who come along to enjoy the yearly autumn banquet and the special combination of natural beauty and culturally important objects and events.

## Traffic Guide

### ●By Train

Take any northern line train heading for Yilan, Hualien, or Taitung, and get off at Gongliao, Fulong, or Dali Station

### ●By Bus

1. Guoguang Bus: The Taipei-Luodong Line (get off at Fulong or Dali Station)
2. Keelung Bus: Hemei → Gongliao (Caoling Historic Trail) → Fulong (get off at Yuanwangkeng entrance)

### ●By Car

Exit the Zhongshan Highway at either the Nuannuan or the Ruifang Interchange, drive on the No. 62 Road (the Wanrui Express Way), and connect to Tai-Two Highway. Cars can be parked at the parking lots near the Yuanwangkeng entrance and the Dali Visitors' Center.





## Hiking Routes

Caoling Historic Trail is 8.5 km long and can be traversed in three to four hours, starting either from Yuanwangkeng to Dali (north to south) or from Dali to Yuanwangkeng (south to north). Visitors can also start from Fulong Hu-Zi Mountain, pass through Yuanwangkeng, and arrive at Dali. Here are the recommended hiking routes:

Fulong Station  $\xrightarrow{2\text{km}/1\text{hr}}$  Yuanwangkeng entrance  $\xrightarrow{1\text{km}/0.5\text{hr}}$  Horse-Falling-to-Death Bridge  $\xrightarrow{0.84\text{km}/0.5\text{hr}}$  Big Banyan Area  $\xrightarrow{0.8\text{km}/40\text{mins}}$  Siong Jhen Man Yan Inscription  $\xrightarrow{0.7\text{km}/20\text{mins}}$  Picnic Area  $\xrightarrow{0.5\text{km}/20\text{mins}}$  Tiger Inscription  $\xrightarrow{0.13\text{km}/5\text{mins}}$  Wu-Kou pavilion  $\xrightarrow{0.56\text{km}/15\text{mins}}$  another pavilio  $\xrightarrow{0.14\text{km}/5\text{mins}}$  Maintenance & Management Office  $\xrightarrow{1.8\text{km}/40\text{mins}}$  Dali Temple  $\xrightarrow{0.14\text{km}/5\text{mins}}$  Dali

## Maps & Attractions



### 10 Dali Temple

This is also called Caoling Qing Yun Temple. With the mountain at the back and the ocean to its front spectacular views are afforded here. The temple is devoted to the Jade Emperor and every year on the Lunnar ninth of January many people arrive here to celebrate and worship at the temple.



### 11 Dali Visitors' Center

The center offers a display of cultural and historical documents, a multi-media presentation and guide services. The center also provides a replica of the *Tiger* Inscription in front of its gates for visitors to make ink rubbings of the inscription.



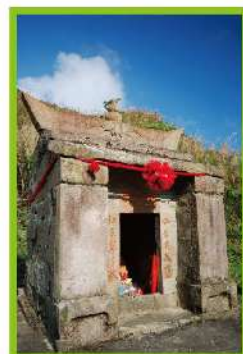
### 8 Remains of an Old Inn

This structure long ago served as a place for traveling merchants to rest. The main building of the old inn is hard to recognize, with only some bricks and stones still remaining, but every year during the *Silver Grass Season Festival* a tea stand is set up here to prepare ginger tea for visitors.



### 9 Maintenance & Management Office

First established in 1970 by the Forestry Bureau, for the protection of the forest, the office was rebuilt in 1989 by the Northeast and Yilan Coast Administration, for providing services for the increasing visitors, under the permission of the Forestry Bureau, and a public toilet was set up at its right side.



### 7 Earth God Shrine

Built in 1925 the shrine is devoted to the earth god and goddess. In front of the shrine there stands a boundary tablet that marks the dividing line between Taipei and Yilan counties.



### 5 Taoyuan Valley

Long ago this area was called Bundling Cows Mountain and was known for a three-kilometer sloped grassy plain that was used as a pasture by farmers. The valley is open and provides very good views overlooking the Pacific Ocean to the east and northwards to the Longdong Cape. The valley, with four hiking trails, is a paradise for hikers who can enjoy exquisite mountain and ocean scenery, especially from the peak of the trail.



### 4 The Tiger Inscription

This is also a level three national historic site. Chief Commander Liu Ming Deng and his troops were once again traveling for an inspection, this time to Wu-Kou. Again they encountered a very strong and peculiar wind. Liu immediately inscribed the word *Tiger* (quoting from *The Book of Changes*: the Wind Shall Follow the Tiger) making the way safe for people traveling through the area.



### 3 Siong Jhen Man Yan Inscription

This inscription, a level three national historical site, has its roots in a legend. It is said that during the sixth year of the reign of Emperor Tong-zhi of the Qing Dynasty in 1867, Taiwan's Chief Commander Liu Ming Deng went on a northern inspection tour. As they passed the Caoling mountainside a thick fog suddenly filled the air causing all to panic. Chief Commander Liu quickly grabbed a brush and inscribed the four words *Siong Jhen Man Yan* (meaning *bravely quell the violent mists*) to quell the evil spirits in the mountain.



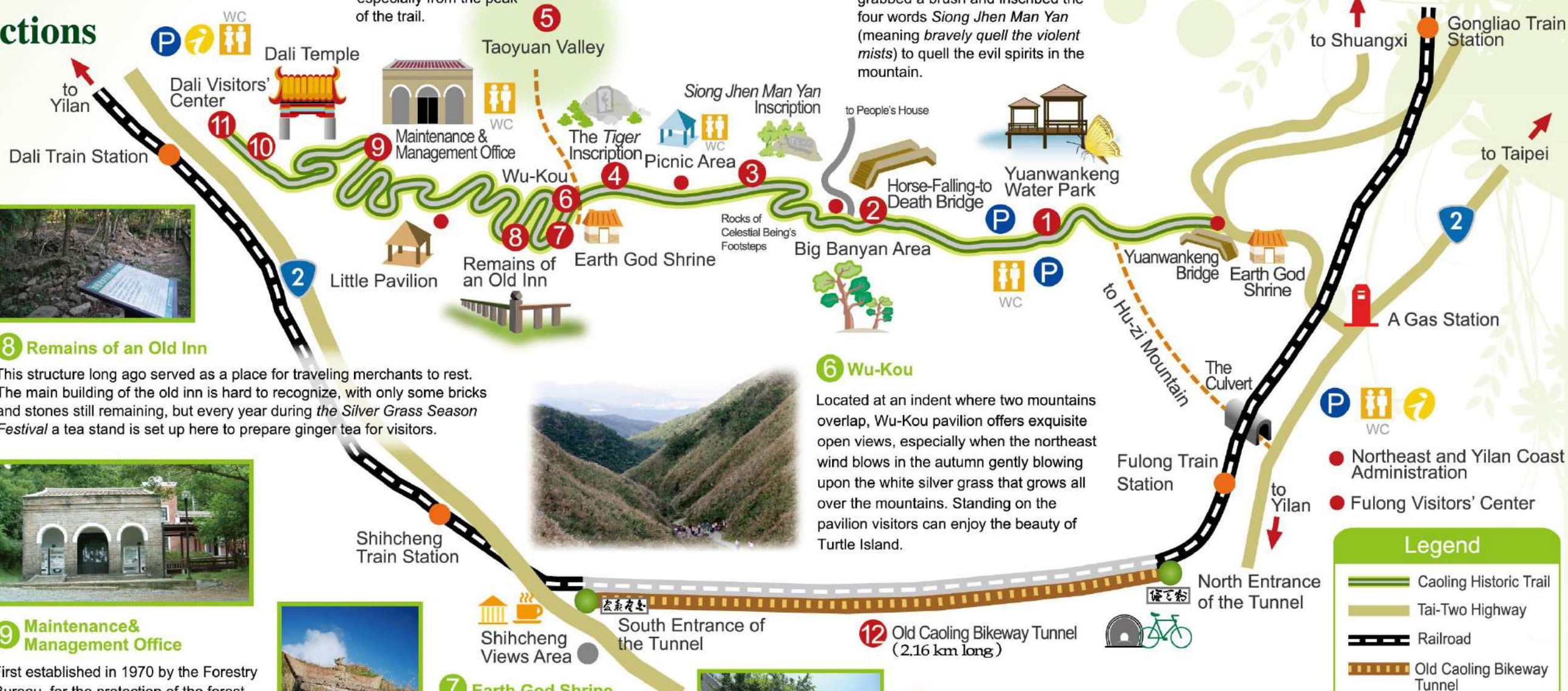
### 2 Horse-Falling-to-Death Bridge

People say that once upon a time there were traveling merchants riding horses coming along this path from Keelung. Exhausted and tired from fatigue, as they crowded onto the narrow bridge, some horses were too weak and fell from the bridge, giving the bridge its current name.



### 1 Yuanwangkeng Water Park

Located on the way to Caoling Historic Trail the park is surrounded by mountains and offers travelers trails and pavilions, terraced fields and grasslands, streams and waterfalls, lotus pools and water activity areas that provide quiet and beautiful recreation spots that can be enjoyed by all.



### 6 Wu-Kou

Located at an indent where two mountains overlap, Wu-Kou pavilion offers exquisite open views, especially when the northeast wind blows in the autumn gently blowing upon the white silver grass that grows all over the mountains. Standing on the pavilion visitors can enjoy the beauty of Turtle Island.



### 12 Old Caoling Bikeway Tunnel (2.16 km long)

### Old Caoling Bikeway Tunnel

Closed in 1986 due to the changing of railway routes, the tunnel was reopened in 2008 as a new bikeway tunnel. The tunnel connects the bikeway between Fulong in Taipei County and Shihcheng in Yilan County. The Old Caoling Bikeway Tunnel is 2,167 meters long and is the longest bikeway tunnel in Taiwan. Recently it has become one of the hot spots of the northeast coast attracting numerous visitors, young and old alike, during holidays.

