



# Yushan National Park & Western Taiwan

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Cantonese Restaurant (p204)
- » Matsu Temple Market (see p217)
- » Full House Resort (p221)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Alishan House (p208)
- » Roulan Lodge (p210)
- » Laurel Villa (p220)
- » Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area (p199)
- » Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area (p226)
- » Mountain Fish Water Boutique Hotel (p225)

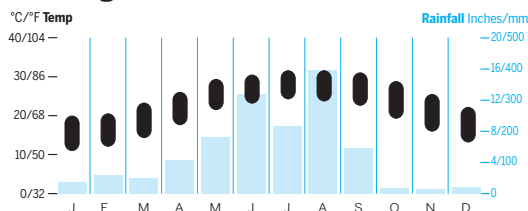
## Why Go?

The west puts on a good show for travellers with some of Taiwan's biggest celebrations of gods and nature alike. If the fireworks blow-out at Yenshui is the season opener, the Matsu Pilgrimage is most definitely the year's highlight. This nine-day parade across half of Taiwan is far more entertaining than Chinese New Year. Expect endless fireworks, feasting, prostrating, praying, great acts of generosity and (since this is Taiwan) a little bit of gangster intrigue.

Not to be outdone, the natural world presents some of the most wild and untrammelled landscapes in Taiwan, as well as yearly migrations of both butterflies and raptors. For DIY entertainment, head to Yushan National Park to climb the highest peak in Northeast Asia. It takes two days to reach the top, and if you continue down the backside trails, you won't see anyone else for days at a time. We're sure you can keep yourself amused.

## When to Go

### Taichung



**April Matsu Pilgrimage.**

**March–April Purple Crow butterfly migration.**

**September–December Best time for hiking in Yushan National Park.**

## National Parks & Forest Recreation Areas

Western Taiwan has its share of parks including pristine Yushan National Park, home of 3952m Yushan (Jade Mountain), the highest peak in Taiwan. Tame Alishan Forest Recreation Area is the polar opposite, with an old alpine train and cherry-blossom trees being the draw. Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area and Aowanda National Forest Recreation Area offer the

best birdwatching venues in the country, while rugged Hehuanshan Forest Recreation Area offers scenic hikes above the treeline. Huisun, Sitou and Shanlinhsi Forest Recreation Area are cool mountain retreats with short hikes and plenty of good scenery.

The Linnei area has a reserve for the globally threatened Fairy Pitta, and is also a mass gathering point on the Purple Crow butterfly's yearly migration. Changhua's



### Highlights

- 1 Climb Yushan, Northeast Asia's highest mountain, in **Yushan National Park** (p192)
- 2 Cycle, boat and stroll along **Sun Moon Lake** (p218)
- 3 Become a pilgrim for Matsu in **Dajia** (see boxed text, p201)
- 4 Wander the old merchant streets of **Lukang** (p214)
- 5 **Bird- and butterfly-watch** around the west (see boxed text, p212)
- 6 Ride an old train and explore ancient forests at **Alishan** (p205)
- 7 Explore the quaint countryside and rugged mountains around the **Jiji Small Rail Line** (p224)