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The 5 Wonders

Alishan has diverse landscapes, magnificent sunrises and sunsets, and spectacular views of seas of clouds nestled among mountain peaks. When you take the railway train, you can also admire nature's craftsmanship. These are all wonderful travelling experiences that cannot be missed.

Sunset

The Alishan area lies at an average elevation of 2,000 meters, offering magnificent panoramic views. As the sun sets, the sky is dyed glorious hues of red and orange.

Sea of Clouds

The sea of clouds mostly appears at sunset or sunrise. Mist and low-lying clouds are formed and layered in the valleys. When you see them from above, they resemble billowy ocean waves.

Sunrise

Due to the earth's rotation, the best place to view the sunrise changes over the seasons. As the sun rises in the east above the horizon, the sky is gradually illuminated with a golden glow.

Railway

The Alishan Forest Railway is Taiwan's first national level cultural landscape. Take the train through the mountains and forests to explore the wonders of nature.

Forest

Alishan's forest stretches across the tropical, warm and temperate zones, which are the three vertical climate zones of Taiwanese forests. It encompasses rich forest resources, and is internationally known for cypress in particular.

The Stunning Eight



Tashan

Tashan possesses unique geological landscapes, its steep cliffs created distinctive joints on the rocks. At the summit, enjoy stunning views of the Yushan (Jade Mountain) peaks, Mabolasi Mountain, and Duigaoyue.



Shuishan Giant Tree

The Shuishan Line Trail is rich in forest railway history and leads to the viewing platform of Shuishan Giant Tree, with its beautiful lines and shapes.



Shenyi Waterfall

This waterfall is located near Giant Trees Plank Trail. It is named after Shenyi Bridge, which stretches across the river and has giant trees surrounding it, creating a picturesque scene of forest and water.



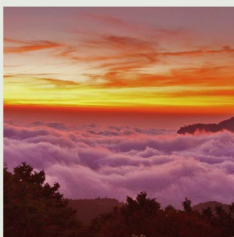
No. 28 Giant Tree

On the Giant Tree Plank Trail, the red cypress giant trees along the trail are all numbered, of which the No. 28 Giant Tree is spectacular and tall. Endemic plants, such as the rhododendron, grow and thrive on its trunk.



Sacred Tree Remains

Formerly the first generation of sacred trees in Alishan, and was once a spiritual symbol here. Due to safety concerns after many disasters and damages, it was felled in 1998 and returned to nature.



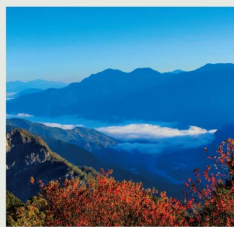
Ciyun Viewing Platform

The platform next to Ciyun Temple is one of the best places in Alishan for viewing seas of clouds. When surrounded in cloud and mist, it resembles the scenery from Tashan.



Xianglin Arch Bridge

This stone arch bridge stretches across the Alishan River. It was built out of handcut stones to create a unique landscape. When surrounded in cloud and mist, it resembles the scenery from Kyoto, Japan.



Mt. Ogasawara

This is one of the best sites for viewing the sunrise, sunset, and stars. Due to its unique location, it is possible to get a close view of Tashan, Duigaoyue, and Wansui Mountain, and see the Jianan Plains in the distance.

Brahmaea Wallichii Insulata



Forestry History



Alishan Museum

In 2007, building renovations were carried out on the museum using top-grade cypress wood. Inside are exhibitions on forest railway history, forestry history, and forest preservation.



Three Generations Trees and Elephant Trunk Tree

Three Generations Tree is named for its coexistence of withered and living Taiwan red cypress, symbolizing the circle of life. Next to it, Elephant Trunk Tree resembles the head of an elephant to the imaginative mind.



Tree Spirit Monument

This monument was built in 1935 to commemorate and "soothe" the spirits of the trees that were felled. Its round staircase symbolizes a tree trunk with growth rings, with each step representing 500 years, signifying the long history of sacred trees.



Memorial to Dr. Kawai Shitaro

This memorial was erected in 1932 to honor the contribution of Dr. Kawai Shitaro to the Alishan Forest Railway. On the front is an engraved inscription by Japanese philosopher Kitaro Nishida, and on the back is a description of its origins.

Ecotourism



Eco-Education Center

This center integrates forest imagery, reuse of old buildings, culture, history, environmentally friendly concepts, and environmental education. It aims to help the public understand the importance of protecting habitats and wildlife.

Alishan has long attracted the interest of academics and explorers. It is filled with abundant flora and is a wonderful place for viewing high elevation bird species, such as the endemic collared bush robin, Mikado's pheasant, and Taiwan yuhina. Other unique animal species include the owl moth, Formosan Reeves' muntjac, Formosan striped squirrel, and Alishan salamander.



Collared Bush-Robin

Yuhina Brunneiceps



Alishan's Salamander



Seasonal Flora Viewing

Flowers / Trees	Best Viewing Places	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Taiwan cherry blossoms	Throughout the recreation area	Flowering period					Dec. to Apr.			Flowering period: Jan, Feb			
Ryukyu Kanhizakura blossoms	Throughout the recreation area, Shouzen Temple, Alishan Hotel						Feb. to Mar.						
Wushe cherry blossoms	Zhaoping Park, Alishan Work Station, Magnolia Park, Forest Trail, Zhushan Helistop						Feb. to Mar.						
Kuril cherry blossoms	Alishan Work Station, petrol station, Alishan Railway Maintenance Section						March						
Yoshino cherry blossoms	Alishan Work Station, Forest Trail						Mar. to mid-Apr.						
Kanzan cherry blossoms	Alishan House, Accommodation Area, Alishan Work Station						Mar. to Apr.						
Kawazu-zakura cherry blossoms, Oshima cherry blossoms	Alishan Work Station, Entrance of the Recreation Area, Zhaoping Park						Mar. to Apr.						
Shirofugen cherry blossoms	Alishan Work Station, Zhaoping Park			Flowering period			Mar. to Apr.			Flowering period: Mar. to mid-Apr.			
Okame cherry blossoms	Alishan Work Station, Zhaoping Park						Feb. to Apr.						
Taiwan pleione	Alishan Eco-Education Center, Magnolia Park, entrance of the Recreation Area						Mar. to mid-May						
White magnolias	Alpine Botanical Garden, Zhaoping Park, Magnolia Garden						Feb. to May						
Purple magnolias	Alpine Botanical Garden, Ciyun Temple, Magnolia Garden						Feb. to May						
Calla lilies	Throughout the recreation area				Flowering period					Dec. to Jun.			Flowering period: Mar. to May.
Hydrangeas	Throughout the recreation area									Flowering period			Apr. to Aug. Flowering period: June, July
Alishan Mahonia	Alishan Station, Alishan Work Station, Sister Ponds, Alishan House						Sep. to Dec.						
Green maple, Taiwan Buerger maple, Taiwan red maple	Zhaoping Park, Ciyun Temple, Ogasawara Mountain, Tashan Trail, Duigaoyue Trail						Nov. to Dec.						