

Sun Moon Lake Tour

Day 1

09:00 Prince Hotel

→10:30 Chung Tai Monastery

→12:00 New Era Art Resort (Lunch)

→14:40 Puli Brewery

→15:50 King Garden

→16:30 Paper Dome

→17:10 Puli Restaurant

→19:10 Sun Moon Lake

【Chung Tai Monastery】

Chung Tai Chan Monastery was first built in 1994. Additional layout and modification work was carried out from 1994 to 2000, giving rise to the majestic Chung Tai Chan Monastery we see today. Senior Master Weijue worked together with famous architect and layman CY Lee to integrate both Chinese and Western architectural styles within the essence of the Monastery. The meditative insight of direct enlightenment, the spirit of perseverance of gradual edification and the atmosphere of ancient forests were utilized, combining artistic, academic, religious, and cultural elements without compromising the element of Zen. The resulting Monastery is a remarkable sight. In addition to its breathtaking architecture, it also offers comprehensive hardware facilities for the worshipers, including meditation halls, Hall of the Caturmaharajakayikas, the Hall of Buddha, Hall of the Three Buddhas, lecture halls, guest rooms, hostels, and dining rooms.



【New Era Art Resort】



New-Era art resort was built in 1987. By years, New-Era art resort is become a high-complete resort. New-Era art resort is combined with many spots, including spa, restaurant, vernicia fordii forest. You can have a great vacation and relax much in New-Era art resort!

【 Puli Brewery】



Puli Brewery mainly produced glutinous rice wine, rice wine, taibai liquor, and sake in the early years after Taiwan's Restoration. Production volume, however, was not very high and most of the wines were sold to the local residents. After repeated experimentation using natural Ailan spring waters, the Brewery finally achieved a fine brew of shaoxing wine in 1952 that was finely received by various customers. Hence, the Brewery began to gradually reduce the production of cheaper wines and shifted its focus to mass production of shaoxing wine in 1966. The Brewery also faced stiff competition from imported wines, but its Ailan White Liquor proved to be a winning hit in 1995. Puli Brewery also started working with local industries, public administration, schools, research institutes, and other agencies in order to promote a healthy wine culture and diversify its business operations.

【King Garden】

It's a beautiful plaza for survivors. It looks like a Europe castle and named with Taiwan presidents of past.



【Paper Dome】

The Paper Dome New Homeland Scenic Park is located southeast of the Taomi Eco-Village with an area measuring up to 3.5 hectares. The paper dome was designed by architect Shigeru Ban after the Takatori Church collapsed in the 1995 Osaka-Kobe Earthquake as a temporary site for a summit. After it fulfilled its local mission, the paper dome that symbolized the reconstruction effort was shipped all the way to the Taomi community to continue its relief mission. The church is held up by 58 paper columns and even the bench chairs in the church are made using paper. This was designed to convey the message that materials as soft as paper can hold up a building; the roof, exterior and even the rectangular corridors are both made of fiber-reinforced plastics and sunshine shoots through the roof to present a sacred atmosphere for the church. The Learning Center next to the church is made of steel, which is bent into all kinds of shapes. The cold and hard steel materials present a sharp contrast with the weak paper materials used to build the church. Besides serving as stage for special events, the church serves as a symbol for strengthening coherence among residents. Thus, its current name “Paper Dome” seems to be a better description for the building. Besides the two different buildings, the park is also full of ecological features with plants grown throughout the site to attract butterflies. On sunny days, butterflies dance all over the place. The ecological ponds on both sides of the park contain rich aquatic plants, and as it is decorated by wooden restaurants, this park is truly and poetically beautiful. As you visit this park, besides admiring the buildings, you will feel your spirit lifted by the vitality of human beings in the wake of disaster.

【Puli Restaurant】

It's a beautiful restaurant full of many flowers, just like eating in a big garden. The eastern buildings are very elegant. And you can enjoy the local foods here!



Day 2

09:00-11:30 Sun Moon Lake

→11:30 Sun Moon Lake (Lunch)

→13:30 Sun Moon Lake

→15:40 Shueili Snake Kiln

→18:40 Chiayi

【 Sun Moon Lake 】



Divided by Lalu Island, the Sun Moon Lake scenic area got its name from the unique terrains that look like sun on one side and crescent moon on the other. Crowned as one of the Eight Wonders of Taiwan, Sun Moon Lake is also the most famous source of hydroelectric power; offering key tourist themes - “high mountain and lake”, “indigenous culture”, and ”nature ecology,” the Sun Moon Lake Scenic Area attracts more than six million visits each year.

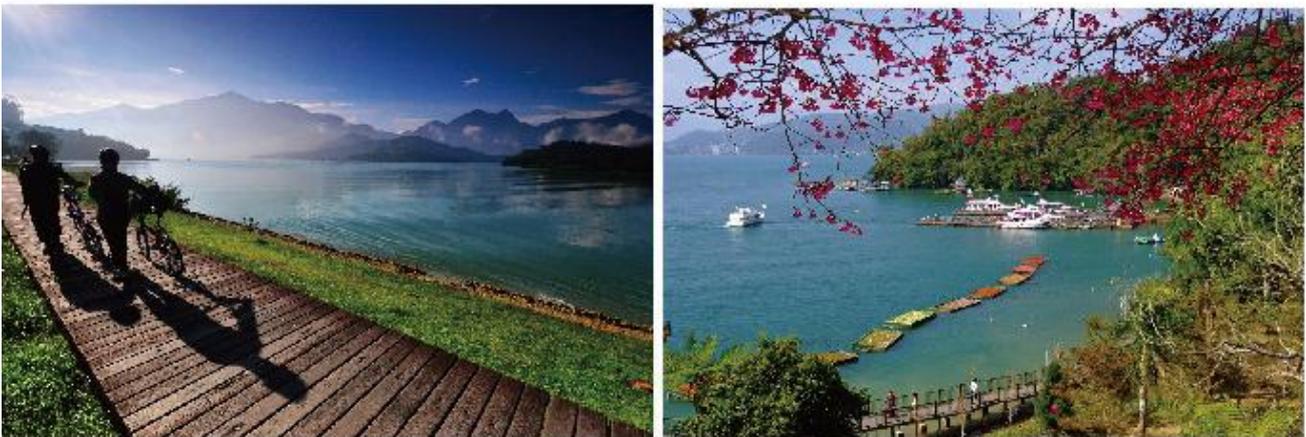


Xingshang Visitor Center



The Xiangshan Visitor Center is both for tourism and administration use. The uniquely designed building has wood-patterned exteriors and wings that stretch like human arms embracing the earth. In addition, the two giant canopy structures, 34 meters long and 8 meters tall each, allow people to enjoy beautiful views of the Sun Moon Lake on top.

Shueishi Lakeside Trail



This trail goes from Shueishe Wharf to Jioulongkou, winding for 1.5 kilometers. It is a new trail that has just been recently finished, and is built along the lake, allowing people to observe the lake closed-up. Many natural pontoons can be seen on this trail, which provide an excellent ecological environment for the numerous aquatic species living here. This short and flat trail provides a gentle, comfortable hike.

Wenwu Temple



During the Japanese occupation period there were two temples on the banks of the lake: Longfeng Temple in Shueishe Village and Yihua Hall in what is now Yitashao. But when the Japanese built their hydroelectric power plants, the water levels rose, and the temples had to be removed. The Japanese electric company paid compensation, and the temple managers decided to combine their resources and build a single new temple at Songboling on the northern shore of the lake. The result was today's Wenwu Temple. The architecture of the temple has the palace style of northern China. It is of a large and imposing structure, with three separate halls. On the second floor of the front hall is a shrine devoted to the First Ancestor Kaiji and the God of Literature; the central hall is devoted to Guan Gong, the God of War, and the warrior-god Yue Fei; the rear hall is dedicated to Confucius. This is the only Confucius Temple in Taiwan that keeps its central door open. Temple officials say that they do this because the temple is on the bank of Sun Moon Lake and has many tourists, so they keep the door open for the convenience of the visitors. The bronze statue of a seated Confucius makes this also the only Confucius temple in Taiwan that contains an image of the sage. In addition to Confucius, there are also statues of his disciples, Mencius and Zihsih. These three images originally came from Mainland China. They were taken to Japan to escape the Boxer Rebellion near the end of the Qing Dynasty; later on, they were reproduced and brought to Wenwu Temple. Another interesting feature of the temple is the two vermilion stone lions on the two sides of the front plaza. They were donated by Wu Huo-shih, the late chairman of the Shin Kong Life Insurance Company, whose name meant "fire lion."

Ita Shao

Once known as Dehua Village, this is the main Thao settlement. Traditional Thao performances and cultural exhibitions are offered here, as well as a shopping area full of Thao atmosphere.



Shueiuatou Hiking Trail

The Shuiwatou Nature Trail is 500 meters long, rising more than 60 meters. Its name means "water frog head," derived from the large number of frogs in the area. Besides the frogs, something else to look out for here is the Muller's barbet. This is one of the most plentiful, and most beautiful, birds in the Sun Moon Lake area. Its mating season is in April and May, and from then on you can hear its sharp call in the trees along the lakeshore. The call sounds like the wooden temple drum that monks beat when they chant. Consequently, this bird also has the name of "colored monk." The trail passes through a rich environment, making it a good place for viewing butterflies, birds, and frogs. There is no observation platform at the end of trail, but being near the edge of the lake, it still offers a beautiful view. Here you can see a sculpture entitled "Nine Frog Acrobats," depicting frogs climbing, swimming, and jumping. While this is a favorite sight for tourists, it is now always possible to see what real-life frogs really look like. If you want to view them, you need to come while the water level is low.

【Shueili Snake Kiln】



The Shueili Snake Kiln is a traditional pottery kiln that has found success as an innovative pottery arts park. A major tourist attraction, it details the history of Taiwan's pottery industry and offers good educational experiences.