

Alishan Forest Railway

Explore the landscapes from plains to mountains

Discover the nuance of traveling from urban streets to hidden forests

• The only 'Important Cultural Landscape' in the country



Advertisement



Alishan Forest Railway and
Cultural Heritage Office



The Century-old Forest Railway An Enriching Experience

The Alishan Forest Railway began operations in 1912 and boasts over a century of rich history. During the Japanese colonial period, the Taiwan Governor-General's Office constructed this railway to transport timber from the Alishan forest region, which became a crucial transportation artery for the Chiayi mountainous area, responsible for moving residents, travelers, and goods along its route, thereby spurring urban development in Chiayi through forestry.

You can ride on the railway that has evolved with the times to leisurely explore the scenic route. Experience the vibrant charm of mountain villages, explore the stations hidden in the woods, admire the changing forest scenery through the windows, appreciate the engineering marvel of the mountain railway, and fully immerse in the rich cultural and precious landscapes of the Alishan Forest Railway.

AFR
Railway data



Year of Commencement | 1912 Chiayi-Erwanping

Main Line Total Length | 71.6km Chiayi-Alishan

Lowest Elevation | 30m / Chiayi

Highest Elevation | 2451m / Zhushan

Stations | 23

Locomotives in Service | 3 restored steam locomotives/22 diesel locomotives

Main Line Bridges | 74

Main Line Tunnels | 48

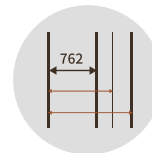
The Forest Railway Cultural Heritage

1 Dulishan spiral loops



The rail encircles Dulishan three times and ascends for 200 meters, guiding the train to leave through the "8" shaped route, which allows travelers to see the same train passing by three times while standing at the same location.

2 762mm Narrow Gauge Train



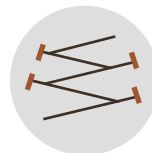
Using a narrow gauge and lightweight carriages to optimize the train's climbs and turns, this railway is the highest narrow-gauge mountain railway in Asia.

3 180-degree Horseshoe Curve



The 180-degree large curves increase the climbing distance, thereby reducing the gradient.

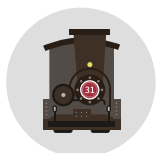
4 The Zigzagging Alishan Train



Due to the limited space, the railway employs a zigzag track, allowing the train to ascend by repeatedly moving forward and backward.

5 The Best Climber: SHAY Steam Locomotives

Made in the USA, the Shay locomotives have been renowned for their vertical cylinders and exceptionally strong climbing capabilities. They were introduced since the railway's inception.



Alishan was the leader of the three major forest sites in Taiwan. Riding the forest railway offers a comprehensive view of Taiwan's historical forestry development, from the timber collection facilities and Tree Spirit Pagoda in Alishan to the sawmill and Japanese-style wooden dormitory cluster in Chiayi City, all of which bear witness to Taiwan's history in forestry.



Know Everything About Forestry Development!



Nature, scenery, all for you to enjoy!

Combining the features of both industrial railways and mountain railways, our journey starts from Chiayi Station and ascends over 2,000 meters to the Alishan Forest Recreation Area. Visitors can observe how the forest scenery changes throughout the ascend while looking for surprising encounters with rare and adorable wildlife.



Experience the Mountain Railway!



We preserve the railway's cultural heritage dynamically by restoring steam locomotives for operation and redesigning the cypress carriages, the new Formosensis, and renewed Vivid Express, as well as opening up the Loco Shed Park and the Grand Alishan School, providing diverse opportunities to engage with railway culture and relive the glory of the forest railway's past.

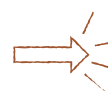


Explore Mountain Villages!



The settlements along the railway that once witnessed prosperity driven by forestry development and transportation still retain their rustic charm to this day under the community's passionate revitalizations. You can pick a small station to disembark, explore the surrounding hidden pathways, trace the remnants of the past forest railway on the trails, and enjoy the locally produced small farmer delicacies. The forest railway may not be fast, but a leisurely pace is rather fitting.

The Forest Railway
is Ready to Go!!!





Ride the railway and experience the forest ecology and cultural landscapes

Visiting the Forest Railway

Zhuqi

Starting Point of the Mountain Segment

This quaint wooden station marks the transition from the flatlands to the mountain segment and was once the bustling hub for travelers and goods. The surrounding weigh station, coal stage, triangle, and waterside park are popular hotpots to experience railway culture.



County Designated Historic Site

Jiaoliping

Nostalgic Grocery Store

Next to the station is the Xinmao Grocery Store, a century-old establishment that provides mailing service to residents and travelers, offering the warmest welcome.



Fenqihu

Legendary Old Street

In the past, trains would meet here around noon to replenish water and coal, and the station housed a garage for maintenance and inspection, making it the largest mid-route station on the forest railway. In addition to railway culture, natural scenery, ancient trails, and local delicacies, the strong sense of community in this mountain town is particularly captivating.



Fenqihu Loco shed



County Designated Historic Site

First Switchback and Second Switchback

Alishan Zigzag Railway

From Pingzhena to Erwanping, the straight-line distance is only a few hundred meters, but the elevation difference is nearly 300 meters. To overcome the terrain, the railway employs a zigzag route winding over six kilometers. The two reversal points are known as the First Switchback and Second Switchback.



Zhushan Station

Duolin

The Hidden Homeland of the Tsou People

This is the most secluded station along the entire line, once named "Duoluoyan" in Tsou, which means dense forest. The station is decorated with Tsou paintings, and a one-hour walk leads to the Deenyana Tribe.



1403m

Fenqihu

1516m

Duolin

Shizilu

Gateway to the Tribe

This crossroads, once an ancient path and the passage to surrounding tribes, is now the closest point between the railway and the Alishan Highway. Disembark and visit stores opened by returning youth, where you can savor dishes prepared with fresh local ingredients.



Erwanping

Sunset Sea of Clouds Panorama

Named for its broad terrain, this is the best spot to view the majestic Tashan. When the sea of clouds fills the valley and the sun sets slowly, the magnificent scene is truly breathtaking.



Forest Railway
Alishan

Liyuanliao

The Firefly River

Known for its fireflies, this unstaffed station attracts countless photographers from April to May each year for the dreamlike scenery.

Shuisheliao

Ecological Station

Nestled in the middle of a horseshoe bend, the unique railway mountain village embraces the rich surrounding nature.



Zhangnaoliao – Dulishan

The Top Choice for Hillside Hiking

As the starting point of the Dulishan spiral route, one can look up from Zhangnaoliao and see the train ascending repeatedly. This station is also one of the rare "switchback stations" in Taiwan, where the train must reverse to enter the station. Zhangnaoliao Station is the starting point of the Dulishan Mountain National Trail, making it a popular choice for combining train rides and hiking activities.

Lumachan

Roaming through Goldenrain Tree Path

Surrounded by a station master's dormitory, tobacco buildings, and the Manzhu Cycling Trail, this picturesque rural sight is ideal for cycling and chasing the little train.



31m

The LocoShed Park

31m

Beimen

82m

Lumachan

30m

Chiayi

127m

Zhuqi

324m

Muliao

543m

Zhangnaoliao

743m

Dulishan

904m

Liyuanliao

997m

Jiaoliping

1186m

Shuisheliao



Shenmu

Misty Forest Exploration

A wonderful spot to admire the zigzag route, Shenmu Waterfall, and Shenmu relics.

Zhaoping

Former Forestry Hub

This is the site of the old Alishan Station. Visitors can view railway vehicles and forestry facilities, and explore multiple trails interconnecting the area, taking serene walks through the lush forest.



Alishan Forest Recreation Area



Mt. Ogasawara Lookout

2451m
Zhushan station



Zhushan Line
Duigaoyue station

Besides Zhushan, Duigaoyue is another excellent spot for sunrise viewing. Additionally, the Duigaoyue boardwalk features vibrant Belamcanda in summer and red acer in autumn, offering endless beauty in every season.

Sister Lake

Tashan
2663m

Duigaoyue
2488m

Mt. Ogasawara
2488m

Duigaoyue station
2405m

Zhaoping station
2274m

Shuishan
Giant Tree

Xianglin Service Area

Giant Trees

Xianglin Sacred Tree

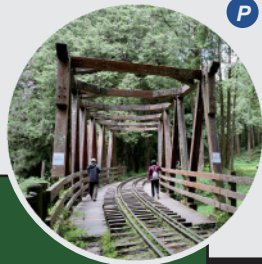
Cherry Blossom King

Ciyun Temple

Alishan station
2216m

Recreation Area
Main Entrance Ticket Booth
Alishan Transport Station

Shenmu station
2138m



Shuishan Line

Shuishan Healing Trail

Connecting the Zhushan Forest Trail, Shuishan Giant Trees, and the forest railway, this circular trail system is rich in natural landscapes, historical footprints, and nostalgic cultural sights.

Zhushan

Impression of the sunrise

As the prime location to witness the sunrise, this new landmark of Alishan combines cultural landscapes with natural ecology.



Zhushan Sunrise Watching



Zhushan Station

● To accommodate sunrise times, the Zhushan line train schedule is announced on the official website and Alishan Station at 16:30 the previous day. Besides online booking, tickets can also be purchased in advance at Chiayi Station, Beimen Station, Fenqihu Station, and 2F of Alishan Station to avoid ticket sold-outs.

Ticket Passes

One-Day Pass: NT\$400 for adults / NT\$200 for children

Two-Day Pass: NT\$500 for adults / NT\$250 for children

Passes can be purchased at Alishan Station the day before or on the day of the trip

Shenmu, Zhushan, and Zhaoping Branch Line Trains

Start Your Adventure in the Forest Recreation Area from Alishan Station

Alishan Station, located at the entrance of the forest recreation area, provides access to the forest railway branch line trains, enabling an effortless journey to Zhaoping Park, Shenmu relics, and other corners of the park.



Chiayi Sawmill



Historic Buildings



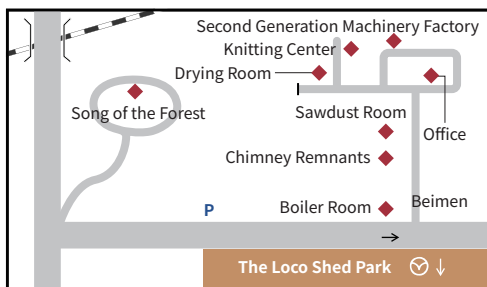
Song of the Forest

Designed with the vision of towering sacred trees and Alishan railway tracks, while also inspired by the Kuba structures and bamboo weaving of the Tsou people, it forms a landmark of the forestry cultural park's landscape.

Completed in 1914, this was the largest government-run timber industry park in Asia at the time. Many historical buildings and relics remain preserved, along with extensive grassland that was once a cypress pond, providing a rare cultural and tranquil setting in Chiayi City.

OPENING

Free Guided Tours :
10:00 ~ 14:00 (sat., sun.)
Wednesday to Sunday
9:00 ~ 17:00



Hinoki Village

Step into
Historical Streets



Historic Buildings

Comprising 31 employee dormitories from the Alishan timber industry in the Japanese colonial era, these structures have been restored using the original materials and construction art. Today, it is the largest and most complete Japanese-style official residence complex in Taiwan, and a must-visit in Chiayi.

OPENING

Daily, 10:00 - 18:00

Beimen Station

Beimen Station officially relocated to its new site on December 26, 2023, adorned in train red, forest green, and morning light white, introducing a new visual identity for the Alishan forest railway.



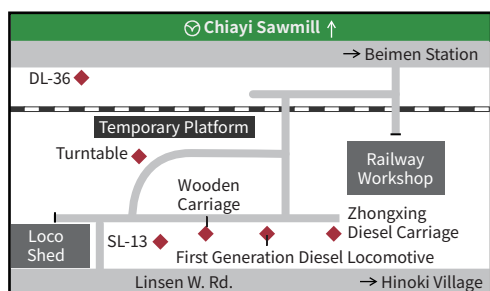
Chiayi / Beimen / Alishan Forestry Villages



The Loco Shed Park

The main base of the forest railway trains, formerly known as the "Beimen Railway workshop," boasts high proficiency in repairs, modifications, and even self-manufacturing parts. The park currently displays retired locomotives and carriages, making it the perfect first stop to learn about the forest railway.

SL stands for steam locomotive, and DL stands for diesel locomotive!



A Must-Visit for
Railway Enthusiasts

Timetable

Main Line



Experience the charm of the fully operational Alishan Forest Railway

Branch Lines



- Zhushan Line
- Shenmu Line
- Zhaoping Line

World-Class forest railway awaits your exploration!



Contact



Beimen Station (05) 2768094
Alishan Station (05) 2679200
Chiayi Sawmill (05) 2779843 ext.353
Book a Guided Tour (05) 2779843 ext.158

Themed Train

To provide passengers with an in-depth experience of the scenic spots and community features along the route, themed trains are periodically operated using steam locomotives or cypress carriages, offering additional experiences beyond the ride, with pricing set according to the train's plan.



Top: Flower Viewing Train
Bottom: Maple Viewing Train



Ticket Information

A Station Ticket Purchase

Business Hours | Various station
08:00~17:00 (08:30~16:30 at Alishan station)

Station | Chiayi, Beimen, Zhuqi, Jiaoliping, Fenqihu, Shenmu, Alishan and Zhaoping

B Online Booking



Additional Information



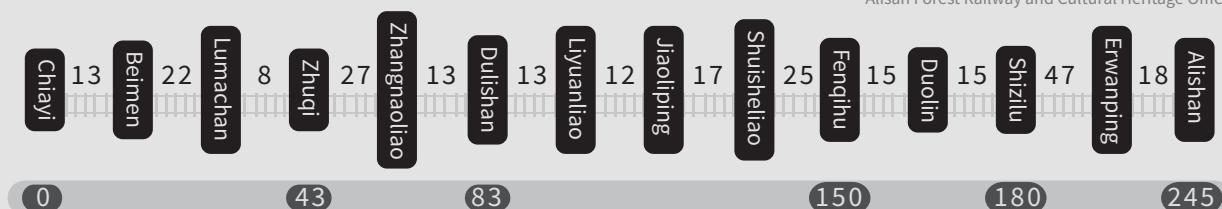
Electronic Brochure



(Facebook) Fan Page

Transportation

Approximate travel time between forest railway stations (in minutes):



*Actual stops may be adjusted, please refer to the announcements made by the Alishan Forest Railway and Cultural Heritage Office

