

# Alishan

## National Forest Recreation Area



COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE EXECUTIVE YUAN  
**FORESTRY BUREAU**

### Five Wonders



Sunrise



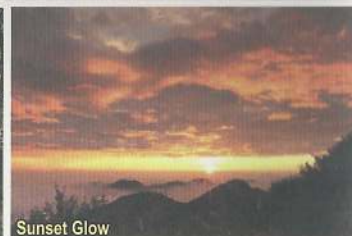
Forest



Cloud Sea



Forest Railway



Sunset Glow

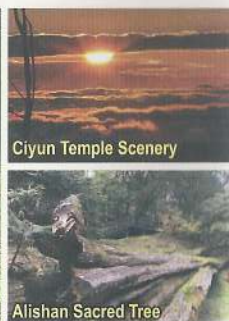
### Eight Sights



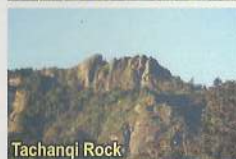
No. 28 Giant Tree



Shunyi Waterfall



Alishan Sacred Tree



Tachang Rock



Shuishan Giant Tree



Xianglin Arch Bridge



Mt. Ogasawara



### Classic Alishan Attractions

Alishan is not a single mountain, but a ridge of Yushan (Jade Mountain). The name, Alishan, appeared in Taiwan choreography, published in 1696. However, the origin of this name has already lost its trace in history. Alishan National Forest Recreation Area, located between Chiayi and Nantou, covers an area of 1,400 hectares with the main recreation site locating at about 2,000 to 2,700 meters above sea level. Alishan is world-famous for its five wonders, eight sights, and enriched forestry.

### Best Tour

Poetical Zhaoping area/Tranquil Shuishan area



### Five Wonders

Forest Railway / Forest / Sunrise

A.Alishan Station → Zhushan Station → Mt. Ogasawara (The length of journey A takes 40 minutes)

Forest Railway / Forest / Sunrise / Cloud Sea / Sunset Glow

B.Alishan Station → Zhaoping Station → Mt. Ogasawara (The length of journey B takes 70 minutes)

Zhushan Footpath connects with Zhushan Forest Road.

C.Tourist Bus Stand (visitor center station) → Zhaoping Station → Mt. Ogasawara (The length of journey C takes 70 minutes)

Zhushan Footpath connects with Zhushan Forest Road.

D.Box office → Mt. Ogasawara (The length of journey D takes 100 minutes)

Zhushan Footpath connects with Zhushan Forest Road.

### Visit the Amazing Eight Sights

Tashan

Composed by a large number of odd-shaped rocks, Tashan is one of the most impressive landscapes in Alishan.

Xianglin Arch Bridge

Surrounded by greenwoods and clear water, Xianglin arch bridge is full of Zen ambience.

No. 28 Giant Tree

As the head among the giant trees, No. 28 Giant Tree has endemic plants such as *Rhododendron kawakamii* Hayata and *Oleandra wallichii* growing on it.

Shunyi Waterfall

The running water embraces the towering trees.

Alishan sacred tree

As a spiritual symbol in Alishan, the sacred tree was discovered in 1906 and was cut and laid in 1998.

Ciyun Temple Scenery

A place for visitors to view the sea of clouds, the red clouds of evening, and the sunset while overlooking tribes and Tashan at the same time. Precious Taiwan cryptomerioides are found next to the temple.

Shuishan Giant Tree

Mt. Ogasawara

It provides a destination for visitors to appreciate the five wonders as well as stars while overlooking magnificent landscapes of Jade Mountain and the Central Mountain Range.



In the early days, Alishan was one of the three major logging areas. With natural conservation awareness coming into focus, logging is highly restricted. Since then, Alishan has been developed based on environmental conservation and forest recreational facilities. Historical remains such as the Old Tree Stump, Lumber Collecting Post, and Tree Spirit Pagoda, and Alishan forest railway all vividly portray stories from early generations.

**Cypress:** The abundant rainfall and perennial mist have made Alishan an ideal place for cypress trees to grow. There are 36 cypress trees with the average age over 1,000 years along the two Giant Trees Plank Trails, creating a magnificent ambience. Thousand Year Cypress, a tree that is actually 2,000 years old with branches stretching like they are cheering for something. Xianglin Sacred Tree, a 2,300 years old cypress tree located next to the Ciyun Temple, is the most majestic tree in Alishan Forest Recreation Area.

**Three Generation Tree:** The three generations of this tree exist in the same trunk, symbolizing the inheritance of life.

**Elephant Trunk Tree:** An old cypress tree stump looks like elephant trunk.

**Forest Railway:** The zigzagging Alishan Forest Railway, originally constructed for logging, has already been in operation for over a century. Visitors can take this famous narrow-gauge train from Chiayi station. It rises from an elevation of only 30 meters above sea level to a height of over 2,000 meters. As it approaches the mountains, the track follows a circuitous route through an arboreal environment that changes from tropical to frigid zone species. Leading every visitor to the forest, hiking trails, and mountains, it is considered a significant cultural asset.

**Lumber Collecting Post:** Standing erect next to the logging machine, it was common to use lumber collectors, lumber collecting posts, and cableways to deliver the wood in the early days.

**Tree Spirit Pagoda:** Tree Spirit Pagoda is a 20m tall stone structure built in 1935 to commemorate and soothe the spirits of the trees that were cut down during the logging industry. The circular steps under the pagoda signify the growth rings of the tree and the pagoda represents the trunk of the tree.

**Alishan Museum:** Alishan Museum, a cypress building built in 1935, has 'Government-General of Taiwan-District Office' on its truss. After the restoration in 2013, it is turned into a Timber Industry Exhibition Hall displaying the forest railway and logging relics. There are also locomotives displayed including steam engines used on Alishan Railway and different firewood engines used in different eras. It has already become a must-not-miss attraction for visitors to learn more about the centennial forestry in Alishan.

**Dr. Kawa Memorial Monument:** This monument was erected in 1933 to pay tribute to Dr. Kawa Ichitaro for his contribution to the forestry industry. It is classified as a historical site in Chiayi County.



Tree Spirit Pagoda



Xianglin Sacred Tree



Alishan Museum

## Natural Ecology

There are a huge variety of flowers and trees inside Alishan National Forest Recreation Area, such as cherry trees, *Pleione formosana* (Taiwan pleione), Magnolia, Rhododendron, Hydrangea macrophylla, *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* (Crocus Tritonia), Alocasia macrorrhizos, *Bellis perennis* (Daisy), and Wisteria floribunda. Alishan Forest Recreation Area comes alive in a profusion of floral colors in spring and summer. When it comes to autumn and winter, this area is embraced by fascinating gold and bright red blossoms of *Acer morrisonense* (Taiwan red maple), *Acer serrulatum* (Green maple), and *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair tree).

In addition to abundant natural resources, Alishan, known an ideal venue to observe middle- and high-altitude birds, has attracted a large number of overseas scholars and explorers from early days. Common bird species in this area include *Yuhina brunneiceps* (Formosan Yuhina), *Parus monticolus* (Green-backed Tit), *Heterophasia auricularis* (White-eared Sibia), *Tarsiger johnstoniae* (Collared Bush Robin), and *Syrmticus mikado* (Mikado Pheasant), making this place a paradise for bird enthusiasts.

### Alishan Eco-Education Center · Taiwan Pleione Formosana Story House ·

#### The Alishan Salamander Exhibit Hall

Those places display Alishan's significant events since 1896, relevant researchers' life stories, cultural relics, seed genes database, and animal and plant models for visitors to follow stories at different times. It also displays conservation procedures and results regarding The Alishan Salamander and Taiwan Pleione Formosana.



*Hydrangea macrophylla*



*Erithacus johnstoniae* (Collared Bush Robin)



*Heterophasia auricularis* (White-eared Sibia)



Eco-Education Center



*Syrmticus mikado* (Mikado pheasant)



*Parus monticolus* (Green-backed Tit)

## Enjoy flora blossoms In the emerald green world

Flowers / Trees	Flower-viewing/tree-viewing time	Locations
Magnolia	February	Zhaoping Park, Ciyun Temple
Rhododendron	March	The Alpine Botanical Garden, Xianglin Elementary School, Zhaoping Park, Alishan 1st Traffic Control
Cherry blossom	March-April	In front of Alishan Ranger Station (The King Cherry area), Forest Trail, Zhaoping Park, in front of Zhushan Train Station
<i>Pleione formosana</i> (Taiwan pleione)	End of March - beginning of May	Alishan Eco-Education Center
<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i> , <i>Bellis perennis</i> (daisy)	March-June	The whole area
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	End of April - middle of May	The Alpine Botanical Garden, Ciyun Temple, Alishan House, Zhaoping Park
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	May-August	Along Forest Trail, in front of Alishan Ranger Station
<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i> (Crocus Tritonia)	June-August	Along Forest Trail, in front of Alishan Ranger Station
<i>Acer serrulatum</i> (green maple), <i>Acer buerferianum</i> Miq. var. <i>formosanum</i> (Taiwan Burger Maple), <i>Acer morrisonense</i> (Taiwan red maple)	November - December	Mt. Ogasawara, Ciyun Temple, Zhaoping Park, Tashan Trail, Duigaoyue Trail, and Alishan House
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (maidenhair tree)	November - December	Ciyun Temple



Three Generation Tree



Elephant Trunk Tree



Maple leaves along the railway



The King Cherry



*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* (Crocus Tritonia) *Pleione formosana* (Taiwan pleione)



CHIAYI FOREST DISTRICT OFFICE

No. 1, Linsen W. Rd., East Dist., Chiayi City 600

TEL:05-2787006



ALISHAN NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION AREA

No. 59, Zhongzheng Village, Alishan Township, Chiayi County 605

TEL:05-2679917



# Alishan National Forest Recreation Area (Guide map)

Important spots and walking distance



450m  
1→2

470m  
1→3

360m  
1→4

980m  
3→5

920m  
3→6

276m  
5→7

690m  
7→8

270m  
8→9

170m  
9→10

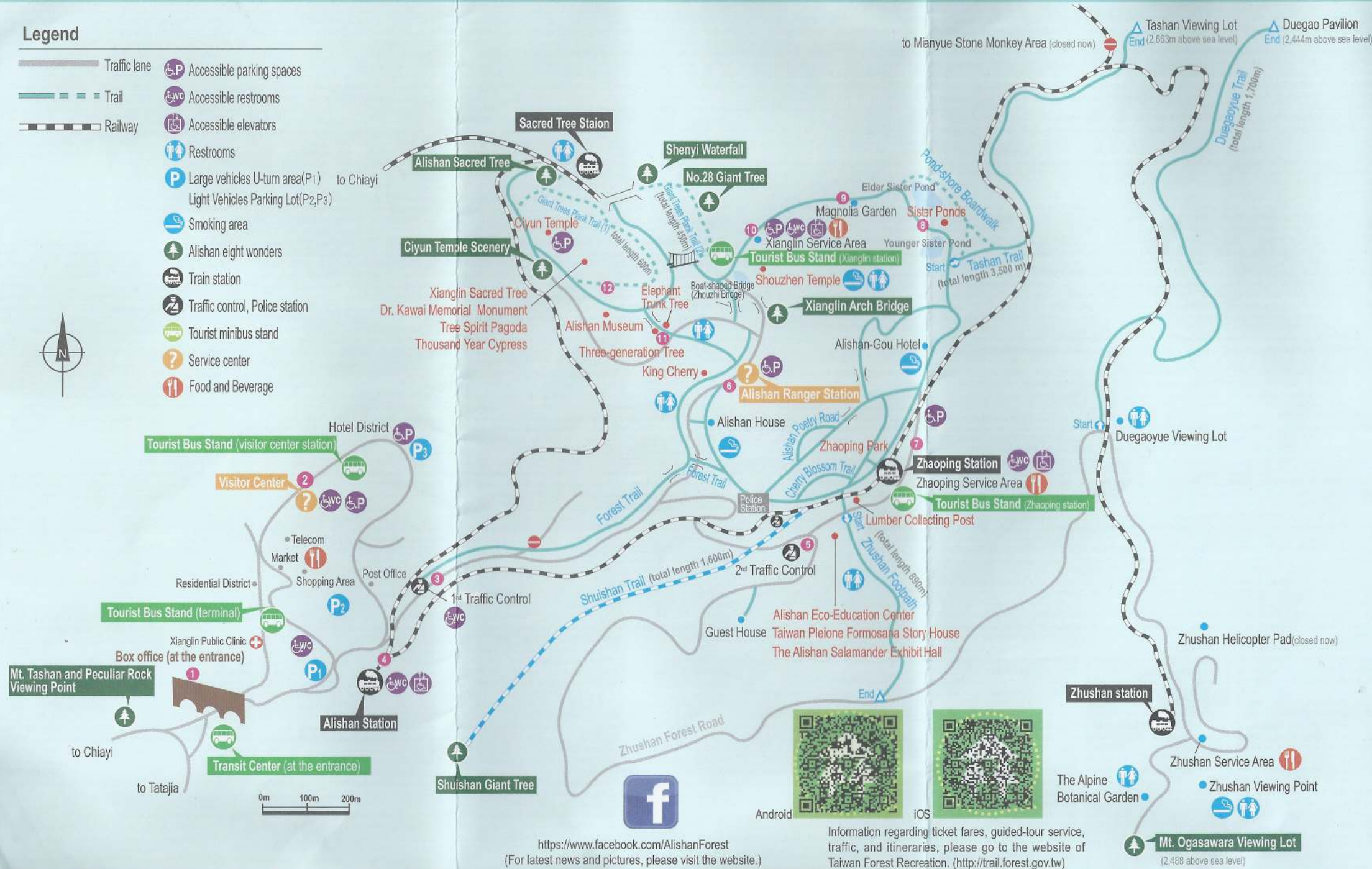
270m  
6→10

190m  
6→11

350m  
6→12

## Legend

- Traffic lane
- Trail
- Railway
- Accessible parking spaces
- Accessible restrooms
- Accessible elevators
- Restrooms
- Large vehicles U-turn area (P1) to Chiayi  
Light Vehicles Parking Lot (P2, P3)
- Smoking area
- Alishan eight wonders
- Train station
- Traffic control, Police station
- Tourist minibus stand
- Service center
- Food and Beverage



<https://www.facebook.com/AlishanForest>  
(For latest news and pictures, please visit the website.)

Information regarding ticket fares, guided-tour service, traffic, and itineraries, please go to the website of Taiwan Forest Recreation. (<http://trail.forest.gov.tw>)



## Explore the Secret Places

### Shuishan Giant Tree

After closing the Zhongzhi Line of Alishan Forest Railway, this area has been open to the public. Other than the fragrant wood dust on the rail, there are Japanese Cedar and Taiwan Red Cypress along the road in the forest. In the end of the road, there is a platform and a railway bridge made of cypress leading visitors to Shuishan Giant Tree around 2,700 years old.



Truss Bridge



Old Forest Railway

## Train the strength of your legs

### Climb to the top of Tashan

After reaching the summit, visitors are able to overlook the magnificent landscapes of Jade Mountain and Central Mountain Range, Alishan National Forest Recreation Area, and cloud waterfalls or sea of clouds.



Mt. Ogasawara Viewing Lot

**Scenery of Mt. Ogasawara-** Visitors can also roam around Zhushan Forest Road, Duegaoyue Trail, and the Alpine Botanical Garden.

Mt. Ogasawara is a must-not-miss destination for bird and mountain enthusiasts. Surrounded by the luxuriant forest, there are a variety of plants along the road where visitors can enjoy a fascinating view of cherry blossom, Magnolia virginiana (magnolia), Rhododendron (Indian Azalea), and Bellis perennis (daisy) in spring. Moreover, this place is also an ideal destination for visitors to watch the sunrise, evening glow, and stars other than overlooking the majestic peaks.

The Alpine Botanical Garden has plants that were named after Alishan.

Taiwan White Fir along the Duegaoyue Trail creates a gorgeous view for visitors to explore. Standing on the Duegaoyue



Toward Duegaoyue Trail



The Alpine Botanical Garden

cliff, visitors can overlook tribes in Xinyi Township. There are also Acer morrisonense Hayata (Taiwan Red Maple) next to the Duegao Pavilion.

## Poetry-chanting atmosphere

### Alishan Poetry Road

Poems from thirteen well-known poets including Zheng Chou-yu, Yu Guang-zhong, and others were carved on monuments inside Zhaoping park. The barrier-free Cherry Trail provides the best location for visitors to appreciate the majestic view of Tashan. During the flowering season in spring, visitors are able to enjoy the spectacular view of flower blossoms. Visitor can also stop by Zhaoping Station, famous for its wooden retro-style architectural feature.



Alishan Poetry Road



Zhaoping Station



Cherry Blossom Trail

## Find the traces of legends

Sister Ponds are composed by two natural ponds-Elder Sister Pond and Younger Sister Pond. This area surrounded by the jade water and the dense forest is filled with a variety of legends. The two pavilions in the Elder Sister Pond made of cypress provide visitors a great place to experience the nostalgic ambience all year round. Visitors can also take their time to enjoy the splendid scenery by walking on the Pond-shore Boardwalk.



Sister Ponds

## Tourist-Friendly Facilities

There are four Tourist minibus stands for visitors to roam around the area. Each minibus has its own painting and is also named after it.



Forest Trail and Sight-Seeing Tourist bus

## Beauty of the evening

**Forest Trail and the Boat-shaped Bridge (Zhouzhi Bridge)**

The footway is constructed with raised plank trail to connect other travel routes and tourist spots so visitors are able to admire the beauty of tree crown. The Zhouzhi Bridge (boat-shaped bridge) next to the Xianglin Arch Bridge has become a new evening attraction for photo hobbyist.



Boat-Shaped Bridge (Zhouzhi Bridge)



## Tourist information

### No smoking

Except for the area between the box office and the 1<sup>st</sup> Traffic Control, Xianglin Village Residential Area, and Outdoor Smoking Areas, smoking is prohibited throughout the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area. Smokers caught violating the smoking restrictions can be fined between 2,000 NTD and 10,000 NTD.

### No pets

To prevent cases of animal rabies in Taiwan's mountain areas and ensure the safety of pets, pet owners, and visitors, pets are not allowed into Alishan National Forest Recreation Area from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 according to the announcement from the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.

(Control measures after August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, please refer to the website of Taiwan Forest Recreation or contact relevant units before the visit.)

### Electric tourist minibus

Details regarding the ticket fares and routes please refer to <http://www.jc-evbus.com.tw> or contact 0800-263520.

### Visitors' group insurance

Visitors who enter the park with a valid ticket or who are exempt from paying admission are all insured inside Alishan National Forest Recreation Area. If anyone appears to be injured in an accident, please contact the Visitor Center for details regarding the insurance. The receipt is considered as the insurance certificate so it should be kept properly. (The insurance document should be submitted to Visitor Center, Alishan Ranger Station, and Box Office.)

### Accessible tours

(1) Physically-challenged visitors who require wheelchairs to move around are advised to reserve wheelchairs from the 1<sup>st</sup> Traffic Control or 2<sup>nd</sup> Traffic Control along Zhushan Forest Road no later than 1 day before your visit by showing the disability card or other relevant documents. To reserve a wheelchair, visitors can contact the Visitor Center or download the application form from the website (<http://chiayi.forest.gov.tw>).

(2) Visitors can also contact the Visitor Center for tourist bus service.

### Service lines

- (1) Visitor Center (05)2679917 (travel brochures and tourist information)
- (2) Alishan Ranger Station (05)2679715 (24hr)
- (3) Alishan Station (05)2679200 (forest railway timetable, ticket fares, and ticket purchasing methods)
- (4) Tourist Bus 0800-263520

### Emergency relief

- (1) Xianglin Public Clinic (05)2679806 (emergency medical services)
- (2) Alishan Fire Department – 119 or (05)2679900
- (3) Alishan Police Station (05)2679975

### Friendly reminder

- (1) To ensure your safety, visitors are advised not to take any taxi without a proper license.
- (2) Camping and barbecuing are strictly prohibited inside the area.
- (3) To maintain the forest environment and your safety, visitors are not allowed to enter any restricted areas.