

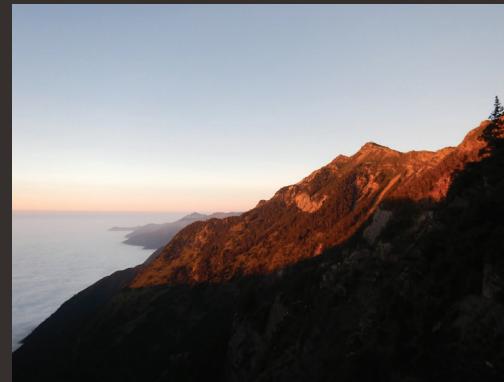
# JADE MOUNTAIN

## 玉山

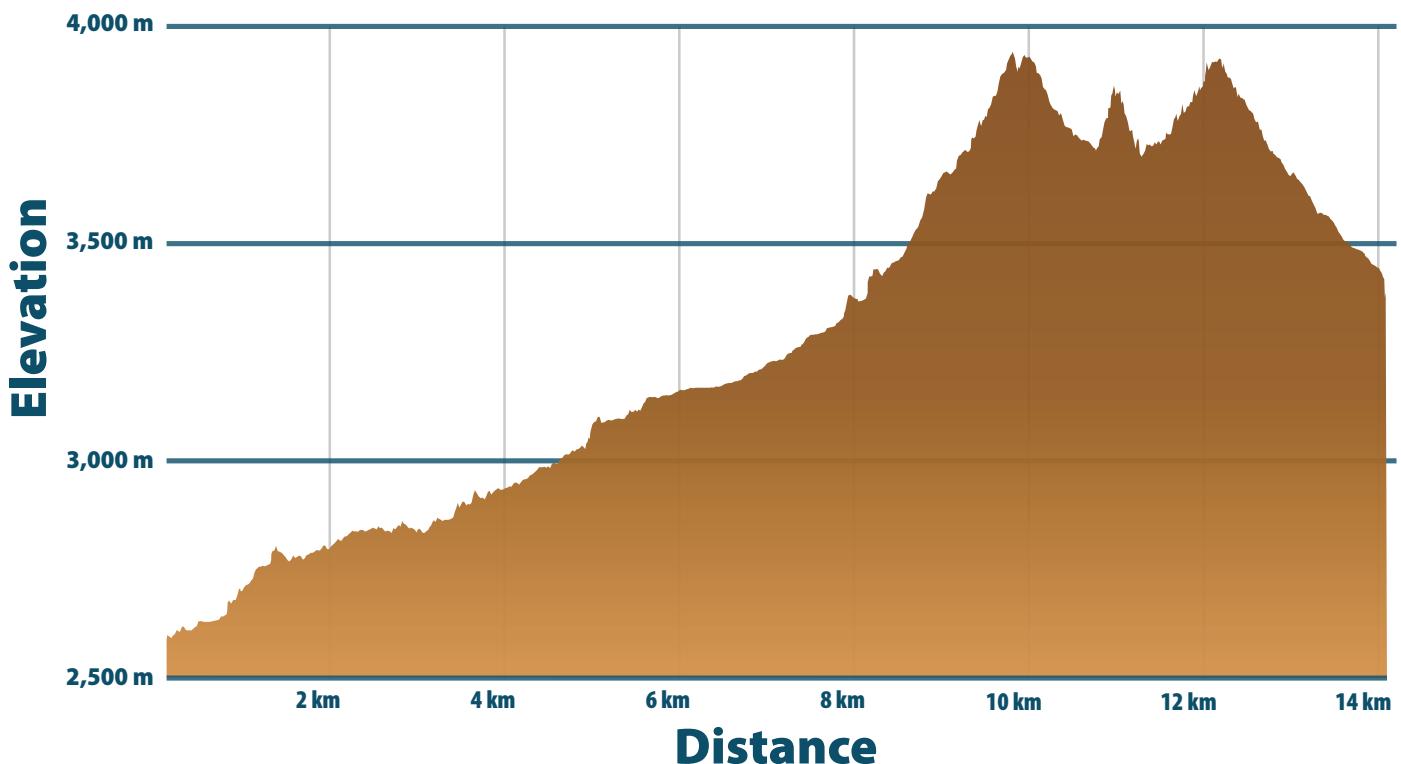


At 3,952 meters, Jade Mountain (玉山) is the highest mountain in North-East Asia. Join us on the adventure of a lifetime to the top of this Taiwanese treasure.

9  
peaks available to climb



# Profile



## History

Jade Mountain was first observed by westerners in 1857 by W. Morrison, the captain of US freighter SS *Alexander*. They spotted the mountain as they were leaving from Anping Fort in Tainan and from that time the mountain was known as Mt. Morrison in western literature. The views atop the mountain are spectacular, and it would be worthwhile to take a pair of binoculars with you and a decent camera.

The first recorded ascent of the mountain was in 1900 by two Japanese anthropologists, Torii Ryuzo and Mori Ushinosuke, after the annexation of Taiwan by the Japanese in 1895. They named the mountain Niitakayama or Mount Niitaka (New High Mountain) on account of the fact that Jade Mountain, at 3,952m, is higher than Mt. Fuji, which is 3,776m high. Under this name, the mountain was used as the secret code to signal the Japanese Imperial Navy to begin its attack on Pearl Harbor. The code was Niitakayama Nobore (Climb Mount Niitaka) and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Chinese restored the original name after retrocession in 1945. It's difficult to get a definitive reason for the name of Jade Mountain. One explanation is that it looks like stainless jade when capped with snow, though a more likely reason is the green hue of the mountain in summertime.



Taiwan Black Bear

### TRIVIA

WITH 287 PEAKS  
OVER 3,000M, TAIWAN  
HAS THE HIGHEST  
CONCENTRATION OF  
3,000M PEAKS IN  
THE WORLD

## Wildlife

There are 34 species of mammals within Jade Mountain National Park, including the Taiwan black bear, wild boar, water deer, long haired mountain goats, flying squirrels, yellow-throated martens, and monkeys.

There are 151 species of birds, 228 types of butterflies and several kinds of snakes; most of which inhabit the lower regions of the mountain.

No need to worry about snakes, we've never seen one as high up on Jade as where we will be hiking.

# Booking

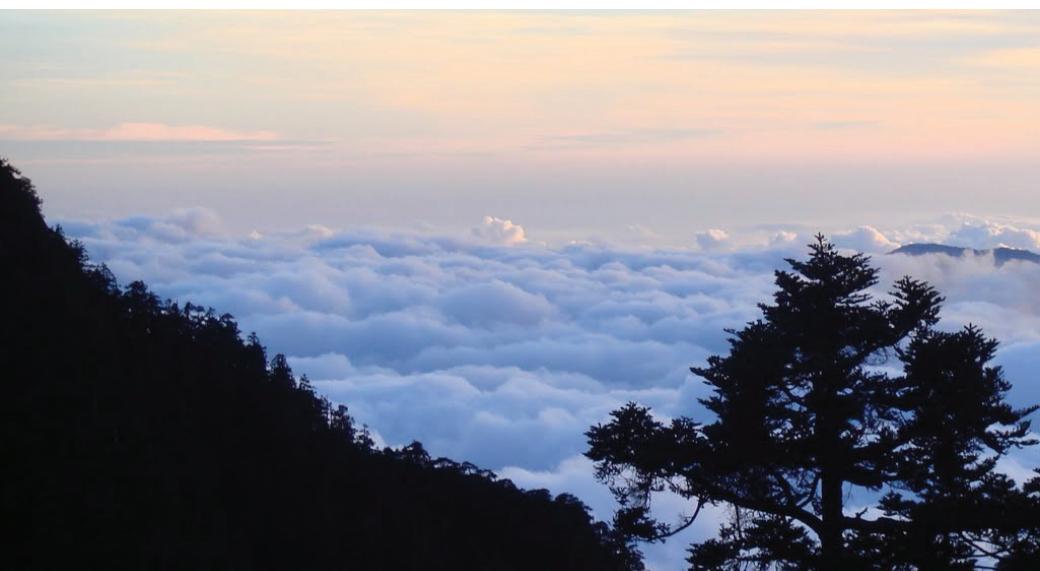
There are 9 peaks within the Jade range and you'll have the option of climbing a few of them if you are up to it. To start the process for any Jade Mt. trip we require a passport or ARC copy and a 20% deposit for the total cost of the trip.

You must also provide your home address, contact phone number, and the name and contact number for next of kin.

There is restricted access to the mountain; for a standard 2-day trip there are only 90 spots available each day. For a Friday – Sunday permit we have to join a lottery which is held one month before proposed date of ascent. With 2-3,000 applicants we tend to avoid weekend trips.

To create better access for hikers coming from overseas, there are 25 slots available to foreign passport holders. This option is only available for Sunday through Thursday. The main advantage of this system is that we can submit our application and confirm it **4 months before date of ascent**.

We run numerous trips to the mountain each year and there are several options available for the main peak ascent.



## Ascent Options

### 1-day speed

Takes 10–12 hours. Must overnight at the base of the mountain. Difficulty: ★★★★

### 2-day, 2-night standard

First night at mountain base, second at lodge. Sunrise ascent. Difficulty: ★★★

### 3-day, 3-night extended

Same as standard with additional hike in park. Difficulty: ★★★

### 5-day, 5-night extreme

Attempt all 9 peaks. Difficulty: ★★★★★

### Custom

Combination of the above. Difficulty: varies

# Conditioning

To help you decide which trip to go on we typically divide them into 5 categories, labeled with stars. They increase in difficulty as follows:

### Category 1 (★)

pleasant outdoor activity, you can take your grandmother on this one

### Category 2 (★★)

easy, doesn't involve any particularly strenuous activity

### Category 3 (★★★)

difficult, tiring, but not exhausting

### Category 4 (★★★★)

quite difficult, should be above average fitness

### Category 5 (★★★★★)

extremely difficult; hikers should be in excellent physical condition

### NOTICE

FOR THE 1-DAY SPEED ASCENT ALL HIKERS MUST PROVIDE PHOTO EVIDENCE OF A 3,000+ METER ASCENT

*Note: You can often downgrade a trip by one category by adding an extra day or by minimizing the load you carry.*

# Transportation and Inclusions

All Jade Mountain trips include transport to and from Kaohsiung or Chiayi City. They also include **guides, permits, meals, and insurance**. Accommodation length (and type) depends on trip choice. Please see trip itineraries for details.

Transportation to or from Taipei City, where most international visitors arrive, is **not included**. During daytime hours trains (3 hours) or High Speed Rail tickets (1.5 hours) are available while buses (4 hours) are often available round-the-clock. Price varies according to speed and destination. Transport as listed above is inexpensive and reliable.



## Chinese

There are several standards for Romanizing Chinese names, which can be quite confusing for visitors and residents alike. We've included the Romanized and Chinese names of a few important cities for your trip as reference:

KAOHSIUNG 高雄  
gāo    xiōng

CHIAYI 嘉義  
jiā    yì

TAIPEI 台北  
tái    běi



## Equipment

We will send you a separate checklist of what you need to take on the mountain and why. Sometimes there will be hot springs arranged after the trip, for which you'll need swimming gear. Not all items are essential, but the trip may be more enjoyable if you have better or more appropriate gear. Never take cotton clothes on a mountain trip – use synthetic fabrics which dry more easily.

Do not go out and spend a fortune on new high-tech gear just for one mountain trip. Try to make do with what you have; you can rent or borrow stuff from friends. **If you are going to spend, put the money into your backpack and boots.** Insulated sleeping mats are provided. Let us know if you need anything else, as additional equipment may be available for rent.



## Prices

Prices vary according to the length of the trip. Per person base rates are below, though prices may vary according to season, group size, and other variables. All prices in US dollars.

1-day speed	\$ 200
2-day standard	\$ 300
3-day extended	\$ 400
5-day extreme	\$ 500



# Why Us

Our guides, drivers, and assistants have over 20 years of experience on the mountain. We provide comprehensive service and cover all your needs from door to door. We are able to work with the local government to ensure all trips are properly permitted and insured.

Jade Mountain is part of the Asian Trilogy (along with Fuji and Kinabalu). Our experience on Jade mountain is unrivaled and we have recommendations going back decades. Our safety record is considerable and we maintain a flexible, individual focus geared toward giving our guests the best possible experience. We are able to make international visitors to Taiwan feel comfortable and at ease while traversing to the top of one of

Asia's most famous peaks.

## TRIVIA

ON THE SOUTH RIDGE OF JADE, THE TROPIC OF CANCER REACHES ITS HIGHEST ELEVATION ON EARTH



“Anyone interested [in Jade Mountain] should find Mark Roche of Blue Skies Adventures.

Transport, permits, lodging, equipment, and guiding. Great service. Great prices. Everyone connected with these trips from the drivers, assistant guides, and Mark have decades of experience.”

*Shane Stubbins*

## Refunds

Once your trip is booked and permits have been secured we cannot refund your deposit. Within 2 months of the date of departure we will refund 50%. Within one month of the date of departure no refund can be made.

**BE ADVISED:** It is not possible to change names once they have been entered on the permit documentation.

## Safety and Legal

All hikers must provide their phone number and the name and contact number of their next of kin (in case of emergencies). Hikers under 20 years old must provide a letter of consent from a parent or guardian. All hikers are covered by travel and high mountain insurance which covers accidents, injuries and medical evacuation if needed. Those over 65 must provide insurance documentation.

Our guides have decades of experience and Blue Skies Adventures® prioritizes hiker safety. However, accidents, inclement weather and other unforeseen or unpreventable events occasionally occur. It is important that all information provided by guests be accurate as of the ascent date. Some trips can be physically demanding, and it's important that hikers know their limits and keep their physical condition in mind before signing up. If you are unsure about whether a trip is suitable for you, please consult a physician.

In addition, we insist that hikers comply with all guide directives throughout the course of the trip. Our guides have your best interests in mind and may need to change course, itinerary, or even delay or cancel an activity due to unforeseen conditions or circumstances.

**Failure to comply with Blue Skies Adventures® safety regulations may result in non-refundable activity termination.**

*Yellow-Throated Marten*



## Additional

Taiwan is not a big tourist destination, and few travelers or mountaineers realize that this small, crowded island features a rugged backbone of high mountains. Jade is the highest, but there are many other peaks, several of them much harder to climb than Jade. Taiwan's mountains are not volcanoes, a refreshing change from other places in Asia.

**“Mark Roche arranged my solo 1-day permit for Snow Mountain as well as for Jade. He lives in Taiwan and organizes all the way up to fully supported Taiwanese adventures. He did a great job for me; highly recommended.”**

*David Hart*

In 1971, a list of the “Top 100 Mountains” was selected and agreed upon. These now constitute the most highly prestigious mountains to climb among Taiwan “peakbaggers”. After Jade Mountain, the second highest mountain is Snow Mountain, a 3,886 meter peak located in Shei-Pa National Park. Blue Skies Adventures® offers trips there and to others in this list.

Contact us for more information:

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📞 +886.982.858.316  
🌐 Blue Skies Adventures  
🌐 live:rochem.tw**

*Mark Roche*

## Weather

The ideal seasons for climbing Jade Mountain are Spring (from March to May) and Autumn (from October to December) both of which have the least chance of precipitation.

We provide trips year round, but the mountain is closed in February for snow season.

Guests should expect temperatures at the peak below 10°C in summer and below 0°C in winter. For every 1,000 meters of ascent, the temperature drops 6°C (e.g. if the temperature at sea level is 18°C then it will be 0°C at 3,000 meters regardless of the time of year).

For August and September, there is a risk of permits being canceled due to typhoons. Guests should keep that in mind when booking their adventure.

