

CHIA MING LAKE

嘉明湖



One of the highest lakes in Taiwan located at an altitude of 3,300m. Believed to have been created by a meteor strike this lake is one of the most impressive high mountain scenes in Taiwan.

10
person limit per trip



Background

"An enchanting mountain lake cradled in the southern edge of Yu Shan National Park. An almost circular expanse of placid blue water that perfectly mirrors the sky above. Chia Ming Lake is perhaps the most popular of Taiwan's multi-day hikes after Yu Shan and Snow Mountain. It's a famously beautiful place that, for decades, has attracted trekkers prepared to face the three day return hike for a glimpse of its beautiful surface. Those numbers became far greater after news reports surfaced in 1998 that the lake is one of only a handful of examples around the world to have been formed by a meteor and it never runs dry." Richard Saunders

Our 3-day, 2-night trip departs from both Kaohsiung and Taitung. You will have the opportunity to see some of the South Cross Island Highway, one of the highest and most impressive roads in the county as we ascend to the trail head at 2,600m.

The trip includes two high mountain peaks on the Taiwan 100 list – Xiang Yang Mountain at 3,602m and San Cha Mountain at 3,496m. The trail head is located in Xiang Yang National Forest Recreation Area on the South Cross Island Highway. We run group and customised trips several times a year and guarantee an experience you will never forget. Lonely Planet guide books voted the sunrise here one of the 10 best views sunrise scenes.

Itinerary

Day 1

At 07:00, we depart from Kaohsiung for the 4 – 5 hour drive to the trail head. We then hike 2 hours To Xiang Yang Lodge to overnight.

Day 2

At 07:00, we depart for Chia Ming Lodge and in the afternoon we ascend San Cha Mountain on the way to the lake.

Day 3

At 06:00, we descend to the trail head with an ascent of Xiang Yang Mountain on the way. In the afternoon we have lunch at a restaurant and visit a hot springs (time permitting) before returning to Kaohsiung at 18:00.

Trip Options

☐ Guided

All groups must include at least one Taiwanese person. Unfortunately, due to government restrictions there are no options for self-guided trips on this particular adventure.



Yellow-Throated Marten

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

WILDLIFE

YELLOW-THROATED
MARTENS CAN
GENERALLY BE SEEN
AROUND THE
LODGES

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

Inclusions

All expenses for entrance fees (where necessary), food and drinks are included. Adult drinks in the evening are not included.

Your guides are bilingual and have years of experience on hiking tours, so you can be confident that we have your best interests at heart.

Both nights are spent indoors at basic, but comfortable lodges.

Booking

To start the process for any 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 for insurance purposes.

Trip must be booked a minimum of 2 months in advance.

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 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 trip 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.



Formosan Black Bear

Weather

The ideal seasons for hiking 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 summer months of June – August are not recommended.

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

WILDLIFE

FORMOSAN BLACK BEARS ARE KNOWN TO FREQUENT THIS AREA

Refunds

Once your trip is booked and equipment issued, 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 insurance documentation.

Equipment

We will send you a separate checklist of what you need to take on the trip and why. Sometimes there will be hot springs arranged for 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 for your day time activities – use synthetic fabrics which dry more easily.

Rather than buying new gear, try to make do with what you have. ***If you are going to spend, put the money into your backpack and boots.*** Let us know if you need anything else, as additional equipment may be available for rent.



Prices

Prices vary according to the size of the group. Per person base rates (in US dollars) are below, though they may vary.

3-day full group (★★★)	\$ 300
3-day half group (★★★)	\$ 700
3-day couple (★★★)	\$ 1000



Why Us

Our guides, drivers, and assistants have over 20 years of hiking experience. 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.

Our experience on Taiwan's mountains 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 East Asia's hidden treasure.

Contact us for more information:

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SAFETY

ALWAYS SECURE
YOUR FOOTWEAR
AT NIGHT – AVOID
LEAVING IT
OUTDOORS IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE



Mark Roche