



Kenting National Forest Recreation Area

Introduction

The name "Kenting" refers to "strong men opening up the land for farming," specifically men recruited in China during the Guangxu reign (1871-1908) of the Qing dynasty and sent to Taiwan to open up and cultivate the land. The old name of the location of the forest recreation area is Kuraluts, which was originally the area of a Paiwan village.

The predecessor of the forest recreation area was the Hengchun Tropical Plant Nursery, established by the Japanese government in the early 20th century. In its early years, the nursery introduced more than 500 exotic tropical plant species. After the Republic of China relocated to Taiwan in 1945, the government converted the nursery into a botanical garden for the study of tropical plants. It is listed, along with the Taipei Botanical Garden, among the world's botanical gardens. Today, it is devoted to academic research and historical preservation.

The forest recreation area has been designed to address growing tourism and ecotourism, while providing for the needs of academic research and forest recreation. The rich ecology, tropical plants and unique uplifted coral terrain of the area all record the passage of time while providing luxuriant aesthetic and educational value.

Climate

The recreation area is in a tropical climate zone at the southern end of Hengchun Peninsula. The average annual temperature is 25.8°C with the lowest temperatures in January staying above 20°C for year-round spring-like weather. Average annual rainfall is 1957 mm, with the highest rainfall in summer. Northeast monsoons blowing off of the Central Mountain Range as strong drying katabatic winds from October thru April are a defining climatic feature of the area.

Plants

In the past, tropical and exotic plants from around the world were introduced to the area for research and cultivation. The area has since become an important site for studying tropical plants, with particular areas such as coconuts, tropical fruit trees, fig trees, Hengchun peninsula plants, Orchid Island plants, and plants for folk use.

The impact of the northeast monsoons is not so severe in the park because of the sheltering valley. The vegetation is characteristic of a tropical monsoon forest presenting a rich and unique plant landscape. The forest may be roughly divided into three layers of plants: trees, shrubs and ground cover.

The tree layer is primarily evergreens dominated by mulberry (*Moraceae*), laurels (*Lauraceae*) and Sapotaceae. The white pillar roots of the Benjamin fig (*Ficus benjamina*), the buttress roots of the looking-glass mangrove (*Heritiera littoralis*) and the strangling behavior of the fig trees are typical sites of the tropical plant landscape.

The shrub layer is primarily Malaysian persimmon (*Diospyros maritime*), *Champerea manillana*, *Cryptocarya concinna* and *Gelonium aequoreum*. Ground cover is mostly ferns and shade tolerant plants, though there is less ground cover the last few years due to an expanding population of Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon taiwanus*).

Visitor information and interpretation service

Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM

Visitor Information

- 1 Wear clothing appropriate for a natural environment, including a broad brimmed hat and sport shoes or hiking boots. Guard against snake, bee and mosquito bites.
- 2 Parts of the trails are slippery. Walk slowly and carefully.
- 3 Stay on the path and follow the signs. Don't climb cliffs or steep slopes. Take care not to damage the delicate environment. Do not enter areas that are marked as dangerous.
- 4 Be a welcome visitor. Do not damage the scenery or facilities. Do not write or make graffiti on trees, rocks, signs or other public facilities.
- 5 Avoid disturbing the environment of animals. Observe, experience and appreciate rather than collecting, damaging or hunting.
- 6 It is prohibited to bring dogs, cats or other mammals into the recreation area to prevent the spread of rabies.
- 7 Do not carry or introduce exotic plants or animals.
- 8 Smoking, making fires and picnicking are prohibited throughout the recreation area.
- 9 Take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but memories.

Interpretation Service

Interpretation service provides a deeper understanding of the ecology, geographical and cultural characteristics of the recreation area.

Group Tours

Audience: Non-commercial groups from 20 to 100 persons

Fee: Free

Application process: Written application to the area office one week in advance of visiting or apply ten days in advance through the Forestry Bureau web site.

Film screening

The visitor center regularly shows a multimedia introduction to the recreation area and other ecological conservation films.

Transportation

Public transportation

From Zuoying High Speed Rail Station, Kaohsiung Railway Station or Fangliao Railway Station, take the Kenting Express Line to the Kenting Arch, from there take the Pingtung 8248 bus or walk to the entrance of the park.

Driving

From the west side of Taiwan

Kaohsiung (Zuoying High Speed Rail Station) → National Highway 1Wujia Interchange → Route 88 Zutian Interchange → National Highway 3 Nanzhou Exit → Provincial Road 1 from Fangliao to Fenggang → Provincial Road 26 to Hengchun → Kenting Arch → Park Entrance

From the east side of Taiwan

Taidong Rail Station → Provincial Road 9 to Taimali, Dawu to Fenggang → Provincial Road 26 → Hengchun → Kenting Arch → Park Entrance



Animals

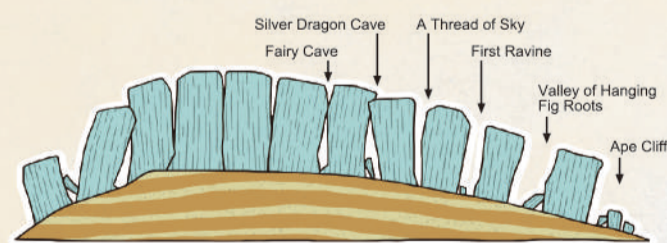
The recreation area has many different kinds of plants which have been protected by people for a long time. The uplifted coral reef terrain provides hidden habitats and thus is rich in animals species. Fifteen species of mammals, 75 species of birds, 111 species of butterflies, 30 species of land crabs, 25 species of reptiles and 8 species of amphibians have been recorded in the area.

Topography and Geology

Kenting National Forest Recreation Area ranges from 200 to 300 meters above sea level and was formed from deposited coral bone, shells and sea plants accumulated into coral reef limestone. The marine terrace was formed through repeated compression and uplifting by the continental Eurasian Plate and the Philippine Sea plate. The recreation area is located on the Gongyuan Marine Terrace and is the highest point as well as the oldest marine terrace in the Kenting area.

The coral reef limestone ruptures due to pressure change through the process of uplift of the crust, then pulled by gravity, begins to slide. Over time with wind, water and rain erosion, then plants squeezing in and growing, the structure cracks forming semi enclosed narrow crevices, such as Silver Dragon Cave and Fairy Cave. The crack gradually widens as the narrow path of the Thread of Sky then First Ravine gradually becomes a gorge tens of meters wide and a habitat of cliffs and crevices.

Walking on the path along this unusual and diverse coral reef limestone, one can admire this rock which formed under the ocean hundreds of thousands of years ago, as if traveling through time and space.



Mammals

Representative species of mammals include the Formosan rock monkey (*Macaca cyclops*), Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), red-bellied tree squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus*), the gem-faced civet (*Paguma larvata*), the ferret-badger (*Melogale moschata*) and the Formosan boar (*Sus scrofa taiwanus*). The rock monkey and the Sika deer forage in groups at dawn and dusk. If you observe carefully you may see signs where the Formosan boar has dug in the soil foraging for food. The limestone caves provide a habitat for the nocturnal Formosan lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus monoceros*) and the Formosan leaf-nosed bat (*Hipposideros terasensis*).

Crabs

Along the paths you may see many Huang Ze Gray Crabs (*Geothelphusa albogilva*) which are endemic to Taiwan. These crabs are common on the Hengchun peninsula.

Butterflies

Swarms of common mormons (*Papilio polytes*) and over-wintering blue-banded king crows (*Euploea eunice*) are unique sights special to the ecological landscape of characteristic of Kenting. From May through August the nectar of flowering West Indian holly (*Leea guineensis*) along the forest paths draws swarms of large tree nymphs (*Idea leuconoe*), blue-banded king crows (*Euploea eunice*), leaf beetles and other insects which have become a focus of interest in the park.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Swinhoe's japalura (*Japalura swinhonis*) is the most commonly seen reptile along the trails and on plants. The Asian common toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*), rice field frog (*Felvararya limnocharis*) and LaTouche's frog (*Hylarana latouchii*) may be seen in the manmade wetlands. In the summer you may see tadpoles in puddles.

If you are fortunate to encounter animals, do not feed them, do not disturb them and care for your own safety.



Swinhoe fig



Indian barringtonia



Strangler figs



The uplifted coral reef terrain provides a foundation for the tall bishop wood (*Bischofia javanica*) and ficus trees where there is nutrition and space to grow. The strong and tough roots penetrate the crevices and wrap around the coral rock creating a marvelous scene.



Buttress roots of the looking-glass mangrove (*Heritiera littoralis*)



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廣告



墾丁國家森林遊樂區

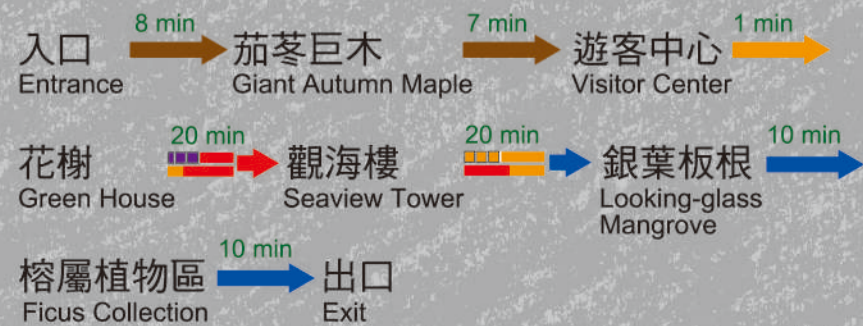
Map of Kenting National Forest Recreation Area



植物漫遊

Plant Walk
遊覽時間 >> 約1.5-2小時
Visiting hours >> 1.5-2 hours

全程可提供無障礙替代路線
Alternative routes are available for wheelchair accessibility



地質探險

Geology Exploration
遊覽時間 >> 約2.5-3小時
Visiting hours >> 2.5-3 hours



- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 蕨類及地被植物區
Fern and Ground Cover Plant Collection | 2 天南星科植物區
Araceae Collection | 3 變葉木植物區
Croton Collection | 4 蘭嶼植物區
Botel Tobago Island Plant Collection |
| 5 民俗植物區
Ethno-Plant Collection | 6 濕地植物區
Wetland Plant Collection | 7 藤本植物區
Lianas & Vines Collection | 8 恆春半島植物區
Hengchun Peninsula Plant Collection |
| 9 裸子植物區
Gymnosperm Collection | 10 稀有植物區
Rare & Endangered Collection | 11 樟科植物區
Lauraceae Collection | 12 殼斗科植物區
Fagaceae Collection |
| 13 熱帶果樹區
Tropical Fruit Collection | 14 豆科植物區
Leguminosae Collection | 15 榕屬植物區
Ficus Collection | 16 椰子植物區
Palmae Collection |

圖例 Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A 森林浴步道
Forest Bath Trail | F 福榕步道
Furong Trail | ♿ 無障礙廁所
Accessible Restroom |
| B 花樹小徑
Flower Pavilion Path | 1-16 植物區
Collection | 🍴 餐廳
Restaurant |
| C 仙洞步道
Fairy Cave Trail | ● 景點
Tourist Site | P 停車場
Parking Lot |
| D 觀海大道
Seaview Boulevard | ♿ 無障礙路線
Accessible route | |
| E 珊瑚礁步道
Coral Reef Trail | 🚻 廁所
Restroom | |

緊急連絡電話: 08-8861211
Emergency Telephone