Houtong Coal-Mine Ecological Park

Houtong is a small station on Pingxi Route Railway. Due to its rich coal output, this place became a small town, and today it has become the Houtong Coal-Mine Ecological Park that features the coal mining culture, thanks to its history and buildings. This place has the largest coal mine in Taiwan in the 1960s, which had an annual output of 220,000 tons of coal, with 6,000 residents. After the mine operation ceased in 1990, this place has become a living record of Taiwan’s coal mining culture.

11 Coal-transporting Bridge

Ruisan’s coal-transporting bridge has a unique and classic appearance. It was an important bridge that connected the banks of Keelung River and transported coal during the peak of the coal mining industry. Today, it is a great place to visit for those who wish to find a secluded place of natural beauty.

12 Jin-Zi-Bei Trail

This 5 km trail starts from the parking lot of Ruisan’s old Houtong Elementary School and ends in Highway 102 of Dalun, Sandiaoling. It is the remnant of the Danlan Ancient Trail with only 350m of height difference. Here, you can enjoy beautiful sceneries and relics, such as the Golden Tablet established in the Qing Dynasty and Fengxianrinhjng Stale.

Information Service

Tourism and Travel Bureau, New Taipei City 02-2296-5122
Shihlin Visitor Center 02-2960-0100
Julien Visitor Center 02-2960-3070
Wulai Visitor Center 02-2661-8305
Houtong Coal-Mine Ecological Park Information Center 02-2497-1413

Civil Service Ethics Prosecution Place

Prosecution Mall Box: P. O. Box 30-29 Banqiao District Against Corruption Tel. 02-2960-1544
Fax: 02-2960-1544
Email address: tpc018@ms.ntpc.gov.tw

Houtong old streets 1-day trip
Taipei -> Houtong Coal Mining Park -> julien old streets -> Mt. Keelung -> Taipei

Route Suggestions

Jiufen old streets 1-day trip
Taipei -> Jiufen old streets -> Jiufen delicacies -> Mt Keelung -> Taipei

Flu Prevention

Get vaccinated
Be active
Get rest
Wear mask
Wash hands
Cover mouth/nose
See doctor
Mountain Town Trip

Taiwan’s traditional coal-mining communities were very famous, and their unique history and cultures include Jiufen’s old streets, which tell the story of gold-mining, and Mt. Keelung’s hiking trails. These places are great for hiking and are full of tourists on holidays because of the serene mountain and sea views.

01 Jiufen old streets
The romantic old streets with traditional buildings and rich art and culture are very famous. Well-known delicacies, historical buildings, and Jiufen tea house are all located on the old streets. You can enjoy the sea view from the observatory. The uniquely shaped Shue Pk. is the main street of Jiufen, and you can see the unique observatory tea house on the one-and-only stairways. Other popular delicacies include fish balls, taro balls, and steamed taro cake that attract many tourists.

02 Shengping Theater
Often a place for shooting movies and commercials, this theater was built during Japanese occupation. The building and nearby surroundings are full of the features of the 1930s and 40s. Movies such as “A City of Sadness” and “Father” and the commercial “Blue Mountain Coffee” were filmed here since the directors were deeply moved by its rich culture and style.

03 Jiufen delicacies
Jiufen has many classic delicacies such as the chewy taro balls which you can eat warm or cold, and Taiwanese meat balls with red vinasse that are made in traditional ways with soft skin and matching sauce. Other well-known delicacies include black sugar sticky rice cake, fish balls, fermented tofu, and lead-less 100-year preserved eggs.

04 Crown Prince Chalet
Built in 1902, this building is mostly built with Chinese cypress and Chinese fir and is very classic looking. A unique feature of this place is that no walls were used; it was completely built with tenon-connecting. The layout of the living room and the study is very elegant, and the courtyard with old trees and a pond that create a peaceful atmosphere are also extremely attractive to the tourists.

05 Golden Temple
This place is located at the top of Gold Ecological Park, and was built on the mountain 100m below Sipingxiang community in Jinguashi in 1933 after the Japanese Mining Co. took over the mountain. The shrine houses Kaneyako deity, which is the divided spirit from the Kaneyako Shrine in Shimane Prefecture, Japan. This deity is in charge of metallurgy and smithery and is worshipped by those who wish to be prosperous.

06 Shuiandong
Beautiful Golden Waterfall
You can see beautiful layers of the Golden Waterfall on Jinshui Highway that leads from Jinguashi to Shuinadong. The waterfall is named the Golden Waterfall, because the ores from Jinguashi and Jiufen are washed down to the river along with mountain spring water and rain water resulting in a high level of oxidized pyrite and arsenic, which gives the water a golden hue and make it a must-see place for photographers. You can also look at the unique Yinyang Sea while standing on the old gold mining field by the waterfall.

07 Mt. Wuerchahu
Shaped like a tea pot without the ear, this mountain has become the landmark of Jinguashi. You can access this place from the trail right by the Ouanji Temple. The entire route is not very steep, and the 58ftm peak is excellent for enjoying the view of the entire coastline.

08 Ore Dressing
Founded in 1933, Taijin Ore Dressing is located on the triangular junction of Northeastern Coastal Highway. It is known to the miners at that time as the “three-tiered eyes” because thirteen tiers of mine fields were established. Although abandoned for years, this place has become a relic with unique beauty, leaving behind a grand image that shows how developed the metallurgy and smithery industry once was in this area.

09 Thirteen-tiered Relics
Jiufen’s taro balls have become one of the town’s symbols due to their popularity among tourists. The raw taro used in Jiufen taro balls are the selected, high-quality products from Taichung. The taro is steamed after the skin is peeled off, and cooking commutcher is then added to mix the taro and cut it into pieces. Hand-made taro balls are very tasty and chewy. Many shops here provide delivery service.

Steamed Taro Cake and Herbal Cake
Jiufen steam taro cake and herbal cake were originally local delicacies and gradually became famous around the country. Steamed taro cake is salty and smooth and has the delightful scent of taro. The herbal cake comes in flavors such as red beans, mung beans, and vegetable, and is very popular among tourists.

Jiufen has many classic delicacies such as the chewy taro balls which you can eat warm or cold, and Taiwanese meat balls with red vinasse that are made in traditional ways with soft skin and matching sauce. Other well-known delicacies include black sugar sticky rice cake, fish balls, fermented tofu, and lead-less 100-year preserved eggs.