

Warm Sunny Winter



Greet the Dawn in Erliao

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Zuojhen

The scene of dawn emerging from behind the layers of clouds in Erliao is like a Chinese oil painting, and this makes Erliao the best place to greet the dawn on the first day of the New Year. You can enjoy the best sunrise of the year here whilst looking towards the east and waiting for the sun to come out.

December
to January



Plum Blossom

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Nansi

Plum trees are in full blossom in Meiling around December and January. Here is the ideal site for white plum blossom viewing. Visitors can also enjoy dishes cooked with plums to satisfy their body and soul.

Dakeng Mountain Spring SPA

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Sinhua

Boasting its unique mountain spring SPA, Dakeng Mountain gives visitors more opportunities to get closer to nature to fully enjoy the serene mountains and relaxing atmosphere.



Come to Siraya to
enjoy hot spring
in Winter



Mud Hot Spring

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Zhongpu

Like Guanziling, Zhongpu is famous for its mud hot spring, which is of the sodium bicarbonate variety. A wooden bathtub has been built under a transparent roof that allows natural light to come in. Visitors can have their hot spring and sunbathe together.



Place of origin: Baihe

Mud Hot Spring

Baihe hot spring is also sodium bicarbonate based, like the one in Guanziling. Because the color of the water is grey and black, it is nicknamed "Black Hot Spring." After enjoying the hot spring, visitors can take a walk to witness the 100-year history of Guanziling.



Five Elements Hot Spring

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Nansi

The hot spring in Gueidan Village is also sodium bicarbonate based, but this one does not have a distinctive color and odor. There are five types of spring: salty, crystal clear, warm, sulfurous odor, and turbid. This hot spring is also known as the "Five Elements Hot Spring."



Siraya Melting

Pot-Han, Siraya, and Taivoan Sub-Clans

Siraya People

In earlier times, the Siraya People settled down in four large communities and other smaller ones in Tainan:

Siaolong She (Jiali District and Dongshan District, Tainan City)

Madou She (Madou District, Tainan City)

Bak-ka-liu She (Shanhua, Tainan City)

Singang She (Sinshi District, Tainan City).

In addition to four major settlements, there are smaller ones such as Tavocan She (Sinhua District, Tainan City),

Taivoan Sub-Clan

— *Liuochong Creek Dawulong Branch-She*

Liuochong Creek was originally the hunting ground of the Pingpu people, “Doroko.” It wasn’t until the middle of Emperor Qinglong’s rule in the Qing Dynasty, that Han people moved from the “Dawulong She” settlement (Yujing District and Nansi District), to the side of Liuochong Creek in the north. The new settlement here is called “Dawulong Branch-She.” The Han people further expanded their settlements to the inner mountains, and occupied all along Liuochong Creek. After the “the Tapani Incident” during Japanese colonial rule, The Pingpu and Han people lived together in this area and the Pingpu people mainly settled down in the east of Sanzhong Creek, in Liuzhong Creek Valley.

Distribution of the Siraya People



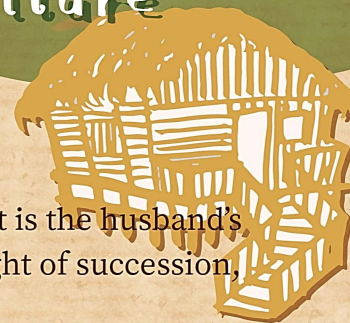
The Siraya People

— Traditional Society and Culture



Matrilineal Society

Traditionally, a husband married into and lived with his wife's family. It is the husband's duty to financially support his wife's parents. Only women have the right of succession, and the women in this culture are more competitive than men.



Respect Governed by Age

The Siraya people respect age more than social status, power, and wealth. When the youth meet an elderly person on their travels, they have to give way and turn their back to show their respect.

Housing

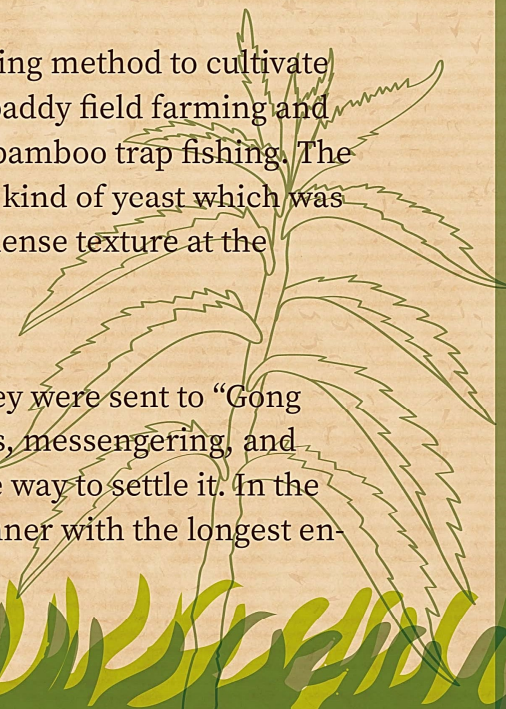
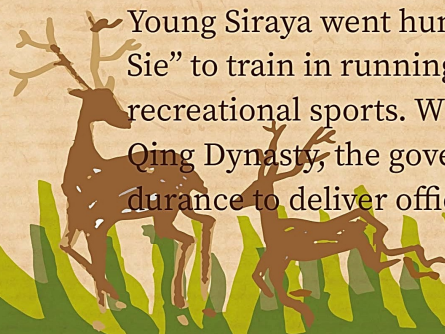
At that time, there were many bamboo trees in Siraya forest, and therefore, their characteristic housing was made from bamboo.

Livelihood

The Siraya People in early times used the “slash-and-burn” farming method to cultivate upland rice. After contact with the Han people, they changed to paddy field farming and learned to make solar salt, spear fishing was changed to net and bamboo trap fishing. The Siraya people ate steamed and cooked rice and used it to create a kind of yeast which was made by combining the rice with a clear liquid on the top and a dense texture at the bottom of a container. ,

Martial Training

Young Siraya went hunting with seniors and after growing up, they were sent to “Gong Sie” to train in running skills that can be used for hunting, battles, messengering, and recreational sports. When there was a dispute, “fighting” was the way to settle it. In the Qing Dynasty, the governmental agency selected the quickest runner with the longest endurance to deliver official documents.



The Siraya People The Art of Living

Cockscomb

Because of a rooster's crowing, the Siraya people were able to find their missing community residents, and therefore, during rituals a cockscomb was placed on a wreath as a token of appreciation.



Kabua

Kapok is "Kabua" in Siraya language. Full blossoms of kapok remind the Siraya people about the arrival of a new year.

Bachelor's Button

With beautiful and elegant appearance, the Bachelor's Button is a symbol of reunion for the Pingpu People. Thus, the Siraya people use a Bachelor's Button to decorate wreaths won by young girls in the Night Sacrificial Ceremonies.



Betel Nut

A Betel Nut is one of the sacrificial offerings dedicated to Alid Zu, and they are also offered as an amulet that brings blessings to the Siraya People.

Boneset

Fresh green Boneset in the pot is a magical instrument or a tool used by the Ang-i (shaman) to break spells and to ward off evil spirits.

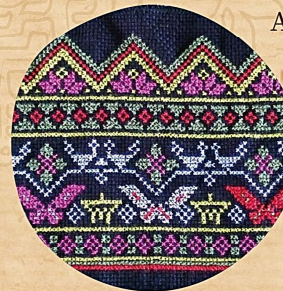


Crown Stitch

The Siraya people were known for their skillful stitching but due to historical change and assimilation with the Han People, their style of stitching became a lost art.

Siraya costumes feature patterns stitched on cuffs and collars of male clothing, as well as on the shoulders and cuffs of female clothing.

Skirts were decorated with diamond and reflective patterns and tassels. The main colors used were red, peach, purple, orange, and green – all of which could be found in plants.



According to the testimonies of the elderly community, their unique colors and pattern designs were inspired by nature, as a way to show respect and the completeness of nature.



Siraya National Scenic Area

Religion and Night Sacrificial Ceremonies

The Spirit in the Bottle : Alid Zu

“Alid Zu” is one of the terms that Siraya people use to refer to their ancestral spirits. Siraya people use “Si Hu” (bottle), beetle nuts, rice wine, and a whole pig to worship their ancestors. “Si Hu” is not the type of carved statue worshiped in the Han folk religion, but rather a container such as a pot, can, bottle, bowl, or urn filled with water. At the bottom of the containers which are placed on the ground or on a table, there is a banana leaf or stone.

Annual Ritual - The Night Sacrificial Ceremonies

Pinpu settlements in Tainan were composed of descendants of the Han and Siraya people, and this makes their annual ancestral worship ritual more unique. This ritual combines both Han and Siraya cultures to form a unique local culture in Taiwanese society.

Currently, at Siraya National Scenic Area, there are four well-known and large Night Sacrificial Ceremonies:

1. Kabuasua Alid Mu Night Sacrificial Ceremonies;
2. Liuzhong Creek Pingpu Night Sacrificial Ceremonies;
3. Fanzaitien Night Sacrificial Ceremonies in Guantian; and
4. Toushe Taizu Night Sacrificial Ceremonies.



Flower Blossoms in Spring

June to August



Place of origin:
Nansi / Baihe

Firefly
Watching

April to May

With less air pollution, Meiling nourishes a diverse natural ecology. Fireflies breed and live mostly on the mountain wall area of the Chushuizi Section of the Wulong Walking Trail.

City Road 175 of Nanliao links hot springs with production sites of coffee, ponkan, longan, and firefly watching areas. Whilst walking on the trail, visitors will feel like they are on the "firefly way", and will enjoy the great scenery and the magic of nature.

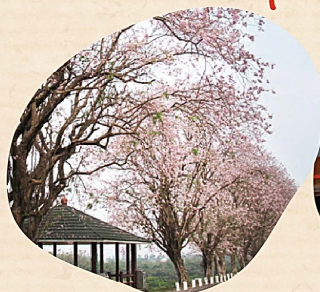
Lotus >>> Place of origin:
Baihe

Have you ever heard of flower blossom? It represents romance and happiness.

Lotus blossom lasts for two to three days, and the best viewing time is from 5:00 am to 10:00 am. The best viewing spot is in Beiwuli. After the sun rises high, the lotus blossom will close. Visitors enjoy biking whilst viewing the lotus blossom at the same time. Listen and watch carefully, and feel the beauty and magic of the lotus blossom!



March to April



Peony, Azalea >>> Place of origin: Nansi

The blossoms of the purple peony of Meiling can be viewed on the Wulong, Meifong, and Guanyin Trails.

Kapok >>> Place of origin: Baihe

In spring, Linchupi's kapok is in full blossom. Looking like an endless avenue of flame, it proves to be a popular photo site. The best viewing time is in the early morning and sunset.

Quickstick >>> Place of origin:
Guantian

Wushantou Reservoir is known for its beautiful Quickstick trees. It was said the famous Japanese hydraulic engineer, Hatta Yoichi, planted the first tree there about 70 years ago. Wushantou Reservoir and the nearby Hatta Rd. are popular viewing sites for both Quickstick and purple orchid trees.



Joyful Summer Time

May to June

Zengwen Reservoir

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Nansi

The most charming way to visit Taiwan's largest reservoir is by boat. On a boat, a visitor can arrive at Flying Eagle Valley to watch black kites or go fishing. Visitors can also spend their time doing water activities, or walk around the Eye of Zengwen or on trails by the reservoir.



Golden Shower Tree

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Sinhua, Baihe

In Hutoubai Reservoir, there is a plantation of Golden Shower trees, and a scene of falling leaves that can usually only be found in fairy tales. Lotus pond and Jhaoancuo in Baihe have become popular sites in recent years.



July to April

Longan

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Dongshan

There are many great varieties of Dongshan longan, and fen ke zi is the most favored species in the market.



June and August

Purple Crow Butterflies

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Baihe

Hongye Park in Guanziling features the most diverse overwintering habitat of purple crow butterflies in all of Taiwan. In winter, these butterflies migrate to the warmer South, and in spring they return to the North for regeneration.



May to October



Mango

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Yujing

Yujing District has been known as "the hometown of Irwin Mango" where visitors can enjoy fresh mango shaved ice, mango ice brick, mango ice cream and a lot of exclusive mango dishes. Visitors can also enjoy mango picking.



Nan Yuan Garden Resort Farm

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Liouying

The Farm features Formosa Island water elements, activities and craftwork, such as bamboo raft fighting, a water golf course, seven reservoirs, swan boats, and artificial waterfalls. Water and green shades comfort visitors from the summer time heat, and grassland and sand beach enable children to get close to nature.



Jinshanpi Reservoir/Jiangnan Resort

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Liouying

Here, visitors can enjoy the poetic waterfront, which shares stylistic similarities with Jiangnan area, in China. On the dragon-shaped show boat, visitors are able to enjoy the beautiful water scenery. If you are a lover of water challenges, the 'one-leaf' canoe or swan boat is something that you should not miss! You can also try rope-skiing on the water, or a paint-ball game that will bring you pure enjoyment.



The Smell of Fall

September
to December

Ponkan

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Baihe

"Nanliao Ponkan" is the other featured product in Baihe that grows on the shady slopes of Dadongshan. The distinct temperature difference between days and nights after the Mid-autumn Festival benefits the growth of "juicy" Nanliao Ponkan.



September
to November

Water Chestnut

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Guantian

Guantian is known as the hometown of the water chestnut, with the largest plantation area in Taiwan. Water chestnuts are consecutively harvested in July, and the high season is during September and October in fall.

Kabusua Community

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Dongshan

On September 4th and 5th on the Chinese calendar, the Community follows the cultural and religious heritage of Siraya, and organizes the Kabusua Night Sacrificial Ceremonies and the Xiaohei Ritual. "Dongshan Kabusua Night Sacrificial Ceremonies" have been recognized as one of the important national folk activities in the country.



Story Mobile

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Dapu

The Story Mobile is the creation of local residents, who repurposed disused fishing platforms to make mobile travelling alleys. Tour guides tell of beautiful local historical legends, and the stories of the Jiadong bamboo pipe house and the white house who were unwilling to leave the community in an interesting manner. Visitors are guided to appreciate the authenticity and aesthetics of Dapu in a LOHAS way.

October to
January

Coffee Beans

▶▶▶ Place of origin: Dongshan

Organic coffee trees are cultivated in the northeastern corner of Dongshan District, and features a unique "Taiwanese taste." Dongshan's coffee plantation area has now topped the popularity polls everywhere in Taiwan. Fall is harvest time for coffee berries, and the ideal time to enjoy your Dongshan coffee.

