

Natural Legend in Kaohsiung(高雄)— Tzaishan(柴山)

Have you ever seen the limestone terrain formed by uplifted coral reefs on a mountain? Or ancient shell mounds on a mountain? In Kaohsiung(高雄), there is a mountain called Tzaishan(柴山), which is 356 meters tall. It faces the Taiwan Strait to the west, connects to National Sun Yat-sen University in the south, and is near the Zuoying(左營) Naval Base in the north. Long ago, people living here made a living by fishing. They collected firewood in the mountain and sold it in the city. This is how the mountain got its name, "Tzaishan(柴山)", meaning "Firewood Mountain".

Tzaishan(柴山) is made up of special rocks from old coral reefs. It is home to more than 900 native plants. Some of them are rare and precious. Examples include Taiwan date palm and *Amorphophallus hirtus*. The *Amorphophallus hirtus* looks like a long spear. It gives off a special smell. It also has a tuber similar to a potato to store nutrients. Many different animals live here, like bugs, birds, lizards, and especially the famous Formosan macaque monkeys. Watching these macaques is one of the most fun activities for visitors. However, due to long-term feeding by tourists, the macaques have developed aggressive behaviors, such as scaring visitors and grabbing food.

In addition to its rich natural environment, Tzaishan(柴山) was once home to the indigenous Pingpu people. To this day, you can still see ancient shell mounds here. In recent years, as Kaohsiung's closest natural green space, the city government built wooden trails in Tzaishan(柴山), making it easier for people to visit. While walking along the trails, you can see macaques jumping, enjoy the tropical forest, and look at the coral fossils in limestone rocks. The best part? When you finally reach the top of the mountain, you'll find a booth where friendly locals carry water up the mountain to brew tea and share it with visitors. At the top of the mountain, locals share a special tea that makes all your tiredness disappear. Who would like a magical cup of this mountain tea? Imagine sipping it while looking out over the sea!

Tzaishan(柴山) is a treasure of Kaohsiung(高雄). It is not just a green space with many plants and animals but also a place full of culture, history, and geology. Tzaishan(柴山) is Kaohsiung's most precious green gem and a truly unique natural legend.